



July 2019

## Statements of Support

### Stopping Bad Robocalls Act

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

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#### **Consumer and privacy organizations supporting HR 3375, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act:**

Americans for Financial Reform  
Center for Responsible Lending  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of America  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Consumer Law Center on behalf of its low-income clients  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge

#### **Statements of support:**

##### **Maureen Mahoney, policy analyst for Consumer Reports:**

“Robocalls are a pervasive, persistent problem, and consumers are desperate for relief from these unsolicited messages. These calls don’t just irritate consumers — they interfere with the phone service for which we pay dearly, and they subject people to scams. By one estimate, consumers lost \$10.5 billion to phone scams in one single year. We commend Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden for introducing the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, which will help ensure that all consumers have effective protections from deceptively spoofed calls, including calls from scammers. The bill will also help get rid of loopholes in order to stop robocallers from skirting the law. We look forward to working with legislators to ensure that consumers get the protections they deserve.”

##### **Margot Saunders, Senior Counsel for National Consumer Law Center:**

“This bipartisan bill is an important step forward in the fight to stop unwanted and illegal robocalls. There’s still more to be done and there is a lot of responsibility placed on the FCC to protect consumers. Robocalls plague voters of all political stripes so we are especially pleased to see a bipartisan effort on this bill. We hope this is the first of several positive steps that Congress will take.”

##### **AARP:**

“AARP commends Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Doyle, and Ranking Member Latta for their bipartisan commitment to address the serious problem of illegal and unwanted robocalls. AARP shares your belief that illegal robocalls continue to place all Americans at risk of scams and fraud. New AARP Fraud Watch Network research shows that consumers are more likely to answer a call if it is coming from a familiar area code or telephone exchange, which is precisely what scammers are exploiting. Older Americans are particularly vulnerable to phone scam victimization, which can wipe out their life savings. AARP looks forward to working with you and Congress on a bipartisan basis to combat unwanted and abusive robocalls.”

##### **Jonathan Spalter, President and CEO of USTelecom:**

“Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden and the bipartisan members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee delivered a loud and clear message to illegal robocallers today: ‘enough.’ These legislative proposals add to the growing momentum and broad partnership among lawmakers, regulators, industry and innovators of all stripes who are closely collaborating to end the illegal robocall plague scamming and spoofing consumers.”

**Kelly Cole, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for CTIA:**

"We commend Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Doyle and Ranking Member Latta for their Stopping Bad Robocalls Act. The wireless industry is committed to combating illegal robocalls and protecting consumers, and we thank Committee Leadership for tackling this important issue. We look forward to working on getting robocall legislation enacted."

**Robert Fisher, Senior Vice President of Federal Legislative Affairs for Verizon:**

"We applaud Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and the rest of the House Energy and Commerce committee co-sponsors of this bill for their continued efforts to protect consumers from disruptive and harassing robocalls. Enough is enough - it's time for Americans to hang up on abusive robocallers once and for all. Verizon has already begun deploying the STIR-SHAKEN call authentication protocol for IP Voice services, and we welcome the continued momentum toward a bipartisan, comprehensive solution that empowers service providers, law enforcement, and most of all consumers. We commend this legislation and look forward to working with Congress to make abusive robocalls history."

**Charter Communications:**

"Charter wants to see an end to robocalls and we commend Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden for introducing legislation that will help do just that. This bipartisan bill is an important step in curbing unwanted and illegal calls. As we work to implement the call authentication protocol SHAKEN/STIR by the end of the year in addition to our currently offered call blocking, screening, and identification features like the Nomorobo app, we will continue to work with Congress to hopefully stop these disruptive calls once and for all."

**NCTA – The Internet & Television Association:**

"Robocalls have become a scourge on our daily lives causing many Americans to simply stop answering their phones. This is why we welcome the bipartisan leadership of Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden to introduce the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act. This legislation along with efforts by the FCC to combat robocalls are critical to protecting consumers from this nuisance."