

House Resolution 5 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

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1 A Resolution recognizing and supporting the federal
2 government's efforts to combat illegal robocalling
3 and spoofing.

4 WHEREAS, cellular phones have become a vital part
5 of everyday life, and Iowans rely on them for ease of
6 communication and accessing information; and

7 WHEREAS, the abuse of this technology by scam
8 artists using malicious robocalling tactics causes
9 significant disruptions and leads to substantial
10 financial losses; and

11 WHEREAS, scam robocallers are becoming increasingly
12 sophisticated, using spoofing technology to fool the
13 call recipient into believing that a call is coming
14 from a friend, neighbor, local business, or government
15 organization; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2018 the Federal Trade Commission
17 (FTC) received nearly 3.8 million complaints about
18 robocalls, and the Federal Communications Commission
19 (FCC) received more than 52,000 complaints about
20 spoofing; and

21 WHEREAS, a recent study found that 26.3 billion
22 robocalls were made to United States telephone numbers
23 in 2018, up 46 percent from 18 billion robocalls in
24 2017; and

25 WHEREAS, another recent study found that Americans
26 are defrauded \$9.5 billion each year from illegal
27 robocalls; and

28 WHEREAS, listing a telephone number on the

1 national Do Not Call Registry does little to prevent
2 or discourage the growing onslaught of illegal
3 robocalls; and

4 WHEREAS, new phone verification systems, including
5 the Secure Telephone Identity Revisited (STIR) and
6 Signature-based Handling of Asserted information
7 using toKENs (SHAKEN) protocols, show great promise as
8 technological solutions to stop illegal robocalling and
9 spoofing; and

10 WHEREAS, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai recently stated
11 that combatting illegal robocalling and spoofing is
12 his top consumer protection priority and called on
13 telecommunication carriers to adopt the STIR and SHAKEN
14 protocols; and

15 WHEREAS, the FTC and FCC are taking steps to protect
16 consumers from illegal robocalling and spoofing,
17 including by pursuing law enforcement actions,
18 implementing policy initiatives, and proposing
19 technological solutions; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
21 the House of Representatives extends its appreciation
22 and offers its support to the federal government in its
23 efforts to stop the abuse of national telecommunication
24 networks, to combat the scourge of illegal robocalling
25 and spoofing, and to protect Iowans from fraud; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
27 House of Representatives shall forward a copy of this
28 resolution to the Chairman of the FCC, the Chairman of
29 the FTC, and to the members of the Iowa congressional
30 delegation.