

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 14, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to urge you to protect consumers from unwanted, invasive, and abusive ringless voicemails. In April, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Public Notice seeking comments on a petition to exempt ringless voicemails from key consumer protections established by the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Ringless voicemails allow the calling party to leave automated voice messages in a consumer's voicemail without the phone actually ringing.

Should this petition be granted, telemarketers, debt collectors, and other callers could bombard Americans with unwanted voicemails, leaving consumers with no way to block or stop these intrusive messages. Exempting ringless voicemails from the TCPA's autodialer protections would allow callers to overwhelm consumers with ringless voice messages without first receiving express consumer consent. Further, consumers would have no way to stop callers from sending ringless voice messages, and callers would have no limits on the quantity or duration of these messages. The Do Not Call List may not apply, and consumers would be flooded with unwanted voicemails, with little recourse other than sifting through their inboxes and deleting these unwanted communications.

When Congress passed the TCPA, one goal was clear: whether at home or on their mobile phones, consumers should not be subject to intrusive and unsolicited messages. While technology has changed, that key goal has not. Whether by robocall, by robotext, or by ringless voicemail, consumers should have meaningful control over who can and cannot contact their mobile device.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Daniel Greene of Senator Markey's office at 202-224-2742.

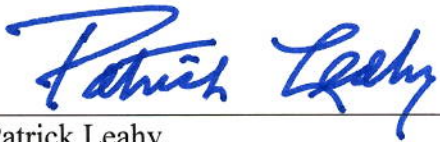
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



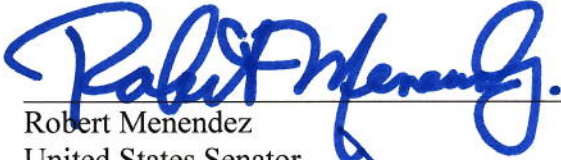
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



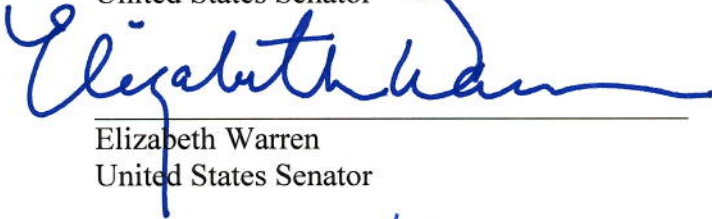
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator