



Consumer Federation of America



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FEBRUARY 19, 2015

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LINK to the petition: <http://www.consumeradvocates.org/sites/default/files/FCC-ex-parte-letter-feb19-15.pdf>

Nearly 60,000 Consumers Tell the FCC: Don't Allow Robocalls to My Cell Phone
Key Privacy and Consumer Rights under Siege from Industry Attempt to Evade "Do Not Call" protections

(WASHINGTON) Today, more than 58,000 consumers across the nation sent a united message to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Do not allow robocalls to cell phones without our consent. The message was delivered in a petition from a broad coalition of national and state consumer groups who are fighting an industry proposal that would gut a key consumer and privacy law: the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

The telemarketing, debt collection, and banking industries want the FCC to allow "wrong party" robocalls to cell phones, which will subject innocent bystanders to intrusive calls and texts if the caller obtains a number previously owned by someone else or if a debt collector associates a number with the wrong person. "The 'wrong number' exemption would gut the law and permit relentless, unauthorized robocalls to your cell phone. Instead, companies can use technology and other measures to weed out numbers that have been transferred and to ensure they are calling the person who gave consent for robocalls," said Margot Saunders, counsel to the National Consumer Law Center.

The Chamber of Congress, along with the American Bankers Association, the American Collectors Association, Consumer Bankers Association, and other powerful industry groups are behind the proposal. "Americans have made clear they do not want intrusive calls and we hope the FCC's response is not to roll back the regulations intended to curb these abuses," said National Association of Consumer Advocates Legislative Director Ellen Taverna. More than 223 million people have placed their home and cell phones on the National Do Not Call Registry, and in 2013, nearly 4 million complained to the FTC for do-not-call violations.

In January, 83 national and state civil rights, community, and consumer groups sent a letter to the FCC demanding that the commission keep the important protections for cell phone users, as mandated by the TCPA. In addition to the petition delivered today, 14 U.S. senators, led by Senator Ed Markey, recently sent a letter to

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler urging the FCC to be faithful to Congress's intention to stop intrusive and unsolicited calls to consumer landline and mobile phones.

READ the U.S. Senators letter to the FCC (January 28, 2015) to the FCC:

http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2015-1-28_FCC_re_TCPA_DoNotCallList.pdf

DOWNLOAD the advocates' group letter to the FCC (January 14, 2015): <http://bit.ly/1523poG>

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Americans for Financial Reform is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 200 civil rights, consumer, labor, business, investor, faith-based, and civic and community groups. Formed in the wake of the 2008 crisis, we are working to lay the foundation for a strong, stable, and ethical financial system – one that serves the economy and the nation as a whole.

Through multilingual financial education materials, community outreach, and issue-focused advocacy, **Consumer Action** empowers underrepresented consumers nationwide to assert their rights in the marketplace and financially prosper.

The **Consumer Federation of America** is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

The **National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA)** is a nonprofit association of more than 1,500 consumer advocates and attorney members who represent hundreds of thousands of consumers victimized by fraudulent, abusive and predatory business practices. As an organization fully committed to promoting justice for consumers, NACA's members and their clients are actively engaged in promoting a fair and open marketplace that forcefully protects the rights of consumers, particularly those of modest means.

Since 1969, the nonprofit **National Consumer Law Center® (NCLC®)** has worked for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people, including older adults, in the U.S. through its expertise in policy analysis and advocacy, publications, litigation, expert witness services, and training.

The National Consumers League, founded in 1899, is America's pioneer consumer organization. Its mission is to protect and promote social and economic justice for consumers and workers in the United States and abroad.

Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization representing consumer interests in Congress, the executive branch and the courts.

U.S. PIRG serves as the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups. PIRGs are non-profit non-partisan public interest organizations that take on powerful interests on behalf of their members.