



May 17, 2016

State Senator Joe Uecker
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Potential Amendment to HB359 on the Transfer of Wireless Telephone Numbers

Dear Senator Uecker,

As the four leading wireless service providers in Ohio, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon are very pleased to support the potential amendment to House Bill 359 relating to the Transfer of Wireless Telephone Numbers.

The purpose of the potential amendment is to provide victims of domestic violence with the ability to retain their wireless telephone number(s) and device(s) when they are working to gain independence from an abuser who is also the holder of the wireless account for those number(s) and device(s).

Currently in Ohio, a victim that is not the account holder can only retain his or her existing wireless telephone number(s) if the abuser who is the account holder consents to this change on the account. As you can imagine, in many domestic violence situations it is very unlikely that the abuser would grant the victim this approval. We believe that we have a solution to this problem in the form of an amendment to HB 359.

The potential amendment requires a court order to direct the wireless carrier to transfer the billing responsibility and control over a specific wireless telephone number(s) and device(s) associated with that number to a specific person, in this case the victim. This action would eliminate the need for consent from the account holder, the abuser in this case to carry out this action.

Recently, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed a bill on this issue into law, and California passed legislation on this topic last year.

We believe that this amendment addresses critical communications issues for victims of domestic violence in Ohio and we urge the Committee to support this amendment.

Sincerely,

Jason Paduchik
AT&T

Dan Leary
T-Mobile

John Jones
Sprint

Neil Krevda
Verizon