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Sponsor Testimony: H.C.R 12
House Public Utilities Committee

Chair Callender, Vice Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 12.

Many of you have experienced calls from people asking why you called them or saying they were “just called by you” when you made no such call. Your phone number was just stolen and used by individuals looking to get unsuspecting people to answer thinking it was you or someone local calling.

Nefarious individuals are using your identity to defraud others. It used to be easier to identify a telemarketer calling you when you could see that it was coming from another state, but now the calls are coming from your own hometown or your local exchange. It is not right that these callers are intentionally trying to defraud people, and it should stop.

Using misleading phone numbers is an unfair and deceptive trade practice. It is a form of identity fraud and should be treated as such. Receipt of unwanted telephone calls is the most frequent complaint received by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from consumers nationwide.

While the telecom industry is taking steps to address this, and it appears that Congress is beginning to do so as well, my joint sponsor and I want to make it clear that Ohio wants this problem to be remedied, and we support and encourage any action to that end.

Chair Callender, Vice Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 12. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have.