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| Description: image001**Dave Burke**26th District | **Ohio Senate**Senate BuildingRoom 39, Ground FloorColumbus, Ohio 43215(614) 466-8049Burke@ohiosenate.gov | **Committees:**Health, Human Services and Medicaid – ChairFinance – Vice ChairJoint Medicaid OversightInsurance and Financial InstitutionsEnergy and Public Utilities Rules and Reference |

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 6**

**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**

**Chairman Wilson**

**Sponsor Testimony - Senator Dave Burke**

**November 12, 2019**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for Senate Concurrent Resolution 6. This resolution will urge the U.S. Congress to grant additional authority to the Federal Communications Commission to stop unwanted robocalls and “call spoofing.”

As you may know, earlier in this General Assembly I introduced Senate Bill 145, which seeks to create the offenses of theft for conversion of a telephone number or exchange and providing misleading caller identification information. The practice of a caller intentionally and fraudulently utilizing a phone number that is not assigned to them is commonly referred to as “spoofing.” Spoofers often deceitfully use a number similar to their potential target’s number. This is done in an attempt to mislead the target to answer the phone and increases the likelihood of the target being scammed.

In a report from just a few days ago by YouMail, which is a robocall management company that tracks the volume of calls, there were 48 billion robocalls throughout the U.S last year. 40 percent of these calls were scams. That means that there were 19.2 billion scam calls last year in the U.S. This impacts nearly every friend and neighbor who owns a cellphone. When spoofing occurs, the target is a potential victim but so is the person to whom the phone number is legally assigned. I have personally received numerous calls from others claiming that I had just called them when I had not. Shortly after I had given Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 145, I had numerous constituents contact me about how they have had similar experiences involving their own phone numbers. Spoofing phone numbers is an unfair, deceptive trade practice; it is identity fraud and it should be treated as such.

This resolution will demonstrate the Ohio General Assembly’s support of federal policies, which would allow the FCC to take the necessary measures to prevent call spoofing. This resolution will also urge the Commission to educate the public on how to report illegal telephone calls.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 6. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.