Senator Theresa Gavarone

2nd Ohio Senate District
Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 54
Senate Judiciary Committee
February 23, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am happy to speak to you today on behalf of Senate Bill 54, legislation that addresses the problem of robocalling.

The bill would stop criminals from using or repeating a telephone number, exchange, or misleading caller identification information that is not assigned to the person, with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

A lot of work on this particular topic has taken place at the federal level by my good friend and member of Congress, Bob Latta. This bill will align several sections of the Ohio Revised Code with federal law so that Ohio will be known as the toughest state in the nation to conduct a robocall scheme.

As some in this committee may remember, the bulk of the work on the state level was done last General Assembly by former Senator Burke through his Senate Bill 145. When I was presented with the opportunity to introduce the updated version, I immediately agreed to sponsor the bill.

Attorney General Yost and his team have spent the better part of a year working with the major telecommunications companies to get them to a place where they feel comfortable and he is here to highlight the changes that were made to the original version of the bill.

The bottom line in that criminal are constantly using illegal robocalls to manipulate and trick many people out of their precious time and hard-earned money. This legislation is a big step forward in our fight to better safeguard Ohioans from fraud and scams over the phone.

Chairman Manning, I have no doubt that everyone in this committee wants to find a solution for this everyday problem and my hope is that the legislation before you today will make the lives of Ohioans better once it is enacted.

Thank you for the chance to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 54 and I am ready to answer any questions members may have.