

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE SENATE TO ADDRESS THE SCOURGE  
OF SPAM, SCAM, SPOOF AND ROBO CALLS

By:

Seconded by:

WHEREAS, spam, scam, spoof and robocalls are vexing, annoying problems for individuals in Chemung County, New York and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Americans received more than 55 billion robocalls; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, 56 million Americans lost more than 25 billion dollars to telephone scams; and

WHEREAS, these scams are becoming increasingly more sophisticated through the use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, which has lowered the cost of dialing to allow scammers to bombard non-consenting consumers with never-ending calls for pennies on the dollar; and

WHEREAS, lead generators compound this this issue by inviting consumers to provide their information on one platform only to misuse and sell this information to hundreds of robo callers; and

WHEREAS, through neighbor spoofing—a deceptive practice that allows callers to disguise the number from which they are calling—scammers can trick unknowing consumers into answering the phone; and

WHEREAS, AI-generated voices that impersonate celebrities, family members, and elected officials makes scammers even more difficult to detect; and

WHEREAS, robocall scams often target the most vulnerable within our communities, including senior citizens, immigrant communities, and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, small businesses also are bombarded with these illegal calls, creating additional and burdensome costs, and interfering with productivity; and

WHEREAS, current laws regulating these types of calls, such as the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and Do Not Call registries have proven insufficient to address the manner in which modern abusers of our phone system prey on every-day Americans and businesses; and

WHEREAS, these issues affect Americans nationwide, requiring federal action and enforcement to stem the tide of these unrelenting calls; and

WHEREAS, previous attempts to amend or replace the antiquated Telephone Consumer Protection Act, such as the Protecting American Consumers from Robocalls Act, introduced in the House of Representatives in 2024, and the Telephone Robocalls Abuse Criminal

Enforcement and Deterrence Act, introduced in the Senate in 2019, have failed to advance and become law; and

WHEREAS, these Spam, Scam, Spoof and Robocalls affect all Americans regardless of political persuasion, economic demographic, race, creed or color;

NOW, therefore, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Chemung County Legislature calls on our elected federal representatives to address these vexing problems through the passage of legislation which protects all Americans and their businesses, whether their phones be land lines or cellular, granting them both an individual civil right to seek damages for violations and a criminal enforcement provision with real teeth which will serve to stem the tide of the annoying, wasteful and fraudulent calls; and it is further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed by the Clerk of the Chemung County Legislature to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.