HJR111

183127-1

By Representatives Hurst, McCutcheon, Johnson (R), Millican and Tuggle

RFD: Rules

First Read: 02-MAR-17
URGING CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL LAWS AND
PROSECUTIONS RELATING TO UNSOLICITED TELEPHONE CALLS.

WHEREAS, thousands of American citizens lose money
and other resources to illegal telephone activity every year;
 fraud, scams, and unwanted solicitations by means of
telecommunication are widespread and often target elderly and
vulnerable consumers; and

WHEREAS, telemarketing to a private residence
telephone number is not an illegal practice; however, there
are times when the methods imposed for the call are
significantly misleading, completely illegal, and can be
threatening to the consumer; and

WHEREAS, the Telephone Consumers Protection Act of
1991 offers limited protections for a residential telephone
customer; it was designed to help consumers stop unwanted
calls but in actual practice, is severely limited and places
an enormous burden on the consumer to report a violation and
aggressively assert and follow up on a complaint; and
WHEREAS, a vast number of these unwanted calls originate using public information made available on the Internet and elsewhere leaving the consumer vulnerable to unwarranted harassment; a consumer-filed complaint to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can take weeks to process and prosecutions are very difficult to initiate; and

WHEREAS, the FCC may be overburdened by the sheer volume of the complaints, and federal laws obviously need to be altered and strengthened to protect the American citizens from these abusive practices and further victimization; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge Congress to strengthen the federal laws to enhance prosecutions relating to unsolicited telephone communications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be provided to all members of the Alabama Delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record so that others may know of our concerns and the urgency of this request for action.