

1 HJR111
2 183127-1
3 By Representatives Hurst, McCutcheon, Johnson (R), Millican
4 and Tuggle
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 02-MAR-17

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL LAWS AND
9 PROSECUTIONS RELATING TO UNSOLICITED TELEPHONE CALLS.

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the Telephone Consumers Protection Act of
22 1991 offers limited protections for a residential telephone
23 customer; it was designed to help consumers stop unwanted
24 calls but in actual practice, is severely limited and places
25 an enormous burden on the consumer to report a violation and
26 aggressively assert and follow up on a complaint; and

1 WHEREAS, a vast number of these unwanted calls
2 originate using public information made available on the
3 Internet and elsewhere leaving the consumer vulnerable to
4 unwarranted harassment; a consumer-filed complaint to the
5 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can take weeks to
6 process and prosecutions are very difficult to initiate; and

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

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

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