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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an advisory committee to develop best practices regarding how to combat unlawful robocalls made to hospitals and how hospitals can protect themselves from such calls, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an advisory committee to develop best practices regarding how to combat unlawful robocalls made to hospitals and how hospitals can protect themselves from such calls, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Patients
5 and Doctors from Unlawful Robocalls Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOSPITAL ROBOCALL PROTECTION GROUP.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
4 shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the
5 “Hospital Robocall Protection Group”.

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be composed
7 only of the following members:

8 (1) An equal number of representatives from
9 each of the following:

10 (A) Voice service providers that serve hos-
11 pitals.

12 (B) Companies that focus on mitigating
13 unlawful robocalls.

14 (C) Consumer advocacy organizations.

15 (D) Providers of one-way voice over inter-
16 net protocol services described in subsection
17 (e)(4)(B)(ii).

18 (E) Hospitals.

19 (F) State government officials focused on
20 combatting unlawful robocalls.

21 (2) One representative of the Commission.

22 (3) One representative of the Federal Trade
23 Commission.

24 (c) ISSUANCE OF BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than
25 180 days after the date on which the Group is established

1 under subsection (a), the Group shall issue best practices
2 regarding the following:

3 (1) How voice service providers can better com-
4 bat unlawful robocalls made to hospitals.

5 (2) How hospitals can better protect themselves
6 from such calls, including by using unlawful robocall
7 mitigation techniques.

8 (3) How the Federal Government and State
9 governments can help combat such calls.

10 (d) PROCEEDING BY FCC.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date on which the best practices are issued by
12 the Group under subsection (c), the Commission shall con-
13 clude a proceeding to assess the extent to which the vol-
14 untary adoption of such best practices can be facilitated
15 to protect hospitals and other institutions.

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
18 means the Federal Communications Commission.

19 (2) GROUP.—The term “Group” means the
20 Hospital Robocall Protection Group established
21 under subsection (a).

22 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
23 ing given such term in section 3 of the Communica-
24 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

1 (4) VOICE SERVICE.—The term “voice serv-
2 ice”—

3 (A) means any service that is inter-
4 connected with the public switched telephone
5 network and that furnishes voice communica-
6 tions to an end user using resources from the
7 North American Numbering Plan or any suc-
8 cessor to the North American Numbering Plan
9 adopted by the Commission under section
10 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934
11 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)); and

12 (B) includes—

13 (i) transmissions from a telephone
14 facsimile machine, computer, or other de-
15 vice to a telephone facsimile machine; and

16 (ii) without limitation, any service
17 that enables real-time, two-way voice com-
18 munications, including any service that re-
19 quires internet protocol-compatible cus-
20 tomer premises equipment (commonly
21 known as “CPE”) and permits out-bound
22 calling, whether or not the service is one-
23 way or two-way voice over internet pro-
24 tocol.