



Senate Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of HB 3865 A
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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

AARP is pleased to support HB 3865 A. Telemarketing fraud is a significant concern, with scammers using sophisticated techniques to deceive and defraud consumers. Although some telemarketing calls are for legitimate business purposes, scammers have latched on to robocall technology to bilk consumers.

Older consumers are increasingly targets of phone, mail, and e-mail solicitations. In many cases, these solicitations are unwanted, misleading, or even fraudulent. These unwanted solicitations can cause significant distress and anxiety for older adults. Many of our members have reported feeling harassed by the sheer volume of calls they receive, often during inconvenient hours which can disrupt sleep and create a sense of vulnerability. According to YouMail Robocall Index this year, already 82.6 million robocalls were placed in Oregon, which equals roughly 20.3 calls per person.

The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) of 1991 restricts telemarketing. Yet the law does not address all types of telemarketing fraud. State-level laws can and do provide additional enforcement mechanisms and by acting more locally we can adapt more quickly to evolving telemarketing technologies, ensuring consumers are better protected from unwanted and intrusive calls.

That is what HB 3865 does. It includes text messaging, bars misrepresentation, updates the hours to prohibits calls outside of 9 am to 7 pm rather than 9 pm and limits the number of times within a 24-hour period. This goes a long way to reducing intrusion, harassment and protecting consumers. Most recently, Florida, Oklahoma, Washington, and Maryland have, with AARP support, enacted their own mini versions of the federal TCPA.

AARP strongly supports HB 3865 A as a necessary measure to protect *all* consumers, particularly older adults, from the negative impacts of excessive and untimely telephone solicitations. We urge the committee to pass this bill.