

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



RANKING MEMBER *Special Committee on Aging*

Sen. Casey's Opening Statement
Hearing on Combatting Robocall Fraud: Using Telecom Advances and Law Enforcement
to Stop Scammers and Protect Seniors
July 17, 2019

“Thank you, Chairman Collins, for holding this hearing and also for your opening statement.

“I know that many in our country are divided on a range of issues, but we're united as Americans in despising these robocalls.

“For some, these calls have become more than just a nuisance. The con artists on the other end of the line often turn a conversation into a heist – literally.

“They threaten our aging loved ones and they rip away their hard-earned savings. And as we'll hear today, these criminals can cause terrible tragedy. The perpetrators of these crimes must be pursued and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. And, they should be behind bars.

“I was pleased to support resources for the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to successfully engage in two of the largest coordinated sweeps of companies facilitating these calls and the criminals making them.

“Unfortunately, even these actions that took place earlier this year have not deterred the con artists. As one of our witnesses, Sheriff Sanders, from Pennsylvania will explain, some fraudsters only seem ever more emboldened.

“They rig phone lines so the number that shows up on caller ID appears to be the number of a local police or sheriff's office. Sheriff Sanders and local law enforcement officials across the country don't take such impersonation lightly.

“These schemes are requiring an investment of time and resources from officers across the country. Instead of focusing only on what they do best – keeping our streets and our communities safe, local law enforcement officials must spend precious time keeping the phone lines safe.

“This is one of the reasons why I'm pleased to have introduced, with Senator Moran, the Stop Senior Scams Act just recently. This bill would create another line of defense against scammers by giving bank tellers, cashiers and others the tools to spot a scam and prevent someone from ever handing over cash to a stranger on the phone.

“We hope that this bill is enacted swiftly. Much of what we will discuss today is how these crimes occur. But, we must not forget the important role that both industry and regulators play in preventing an illegal robocall from being connected in the first place.

“And, so we must make sure that the rules are in place to allow industry to adopt and to implement the most up-to-date call authentication and blocking technologies.

“I am pleased that the Senate recently passed the TRACED Act, as Senator Collins referred to, and that the Federal Communications Commission recently finalized new rules to help get this technology to every consumer with a telephone.

“But, as we will hear today, we have a lot more to do. The mental and financial health, indeed the very well-being, of our loved ones is at stake.

“I look forward to hearing more from our witnesses – we thank our witnesses. And I also look forward to working with Chairman Collins and other colleagues to put an end to these destructive calls.”

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