

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
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Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
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House Passes “Do Not Call” Bill

Rep. Spratt cosponsored legislation to stop calls from telemarketers

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) Wednesday joined a majority of his House colleagues in passing a bill to prohibit telemarketers from calling people who sign up on a “do not call” list. Spratt was a cosponsor and strong supporter of the legislation.

“Telephone sales calls have gotten out of hand,” said Spratt, “and my constituents in South Carolina are fed up. It’s time to silence these annoying, unsolicited calls.”

Spratt said the bill authorizes the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to set up a national “do not call” list. The costs of managing the list would be paid for by user fees on telemarketers.

The bill also requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue its own “do not call” rules within six months of enactment, and to coordinate its rules with the FTC.

Spratt said that while the FTC expects that its do-not-call registry would eliminate most unsolicited telemarketing calls, the FCC has broader jurisdiction over phone lines, and its participation would help to screen out even more telemarketers.

Spratt said some 27 states have established do-not-call lists that restrict telemarketing calls to their citizens.

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