

January 11, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL WORKS TO STOP INTERNATIONAL SCAM CALLS

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a bipartisan coalition of 51 attorneys general in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enact measures that will help stem the tide of foreign-based illegal robocalls that attempt to scam Americans.

“Robocalls cost consumers time and money, as well as violate their privacy, and many of these calls originate overseas,” Raoul said. “I urge the FCC to enact additional measures to help curb foreign-based robocalls and continue to work to stop the scourge of these illegal calls. I am committed to protecting Illinois consumers by fighting to stop these illegal calls before they reach Illinois residents.”

In the comments, Raoul and the coalition called on the FCC to require gateway providers – the companies that allow foreign calls into the United States – to take steps to reduce how easily robocalls have been able to enter the U.S. telephone network, including implementing STIR/SHAKEN, a caller ID authentication technology that helps prevent spoofed calls. Raoul and the coalition argue that gateway providers should be required to implement this technology within 30 days of it becoming a rule to help eliminate spoofed international calls that appear to originate from U.S. telephone numbers.

Raoul and the coalition called on the FCC to require the companies that allow foreign calls into the United States to take additional measures to reduce robocalls, including:

- Responding to requests from law enforcement, state attorneys general, or the FCC to trace calls within 24 hours.
- Blocking calls when providers are aware of an illegal or likely fraudulent caller.
- Blocking calls that originate from numbers that are on a “do not originate” list – such as government phone numbers that are for incoming calls only.
- Ensuring that foreign telephone companies they partner with are making sure that calls are being made from legitimate numbers.

Raoul and the coalition also encouraged the FCC to require all phone companies to block calls from a gateway provider if it fails to meet these requirements.

Attorney General Raoul has been a consistent advocate for protections against illegal robocalls. In August 2021, Raoul joined a coalition of attorneys general in urging the FCC to shorten the deadline for small telephone companies to implement STIR/SHAKEN. In August 2019, Raoul joined a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from all 50 states and Washington D.C. in partnering with 12 phone companies to create a set of principles for telecom companies to fight robocalls. In June 2019, Raoul, in cooperation with the FTC, announced a major crackdown on robocalls that included 94 actions targeting operations around the country that were responsible for more than 1 billion calls. As part of that crackdown, Raoul filed a lawsuit against Glamour Services, LLC; Awe Struck, Inc.; and Matthew Glamkowski, the manager of Glamour Services and president of Awe Struck for allegedly using robocalls and telemarketing to solicit home cleaning services. In May 2019, Raoul submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission urging the adoption of its proposed rules on enforcement against caller ID spoofing.

Joining Raoul in the comment are the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri,

Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.