

But the process can be abused. And we all have heard stories about people being called over and over and over again at all hours of the day and night.

I believe this is wrong. Not only is it interfering with the privacy rights of Americans, but it can turn people away from the political process itself.

Commercial calls are already limited by the Federal Trade Commission's "Do Not Call" list—with millions of individuals subscribing. But political calls were specifically exempted from that list.

Let me be clear: I am not seeking to eliminate all robocalls. Instead, this legislation is carefully designed to provide some safeguards without halting the practice altogether.

The Robocall Privacy Act of 2008 bans political robocalls to any person from 9 p.m. in the evening and a.m. in the morning.

It also bans more than two political robocalls from each campaign to the same telephone number per day, bans the caller from blocking the "caller identification" number, and requires an announcement at the beginning of the call identifying the individual or organization making the call and the fact that it is a pre-recorded message. This is to prevent misinformation about the caller.

The enforcement provisions of this bill are simple and intent on stopping the worst of these calls. The bill creates a civil fine for violators of the law, with additional fines for callers who willfully violate the law.

The bill also allows voters to sue to stop those calls immediately, but not receive money damages. A judge can order violators of the law to stop these abusive calls.

Why are these provisions so important? Let me briefly describe some recent incidents:

Hundreds of robocalls woke voters up at 2 in the morning during a 2007 New York election—because of a software programming error. The calls were supposed to occur at 2 p.m.

In the Nebraska 3rd District Congressional Election, voters complained to candidate Scott Kleeb when they received dozens of calls, containing poor-quality versions of his voice. Kleeb's supporters claim that his voice was recorded, and used in an abusive robocall against him.

In the 2006 Congressional elections, many calls wrongly implied that one candidate was making a robocall. The message began with a recorded voice stating that the call contained information about U.S. Representative MELISSA BEAN. Some voters called BEAN's office to complain without listening to the entire message, which eventually identified an opposing party committee as the sponsor—when most voters had hung up. Representative BEAN had to spend campaign funds informing voters she had not made that call.

The National Do Not Call Network—a nonprofit focused on this issue—has indicated voters receive many calls a

day. They have reported as much as 37 political phone calls in one day for one voter. That same organization reports that 40 percent of its membership indicated it received between 5 and 9 calls a day during the election season.

In a recent Texas campaign, a negative robocall was sent to voters early in the morning—supposedly from one of the candidates. That candidate immediately protested it was not done on his behalf—but instead was an attempt to smear him by using his name. Voters became furious at the call.

In a Maryland race in November 2006, in a conservative area residents received a middle-of-the-night robocall from the nonexistent "Gay and Lesbian Push," urging them to support one of the candidates. That candidate lost the election, and enraged voters about the false, late-night call.

Repeated robocalls to Tennessee resident Jonathan Gregory caused him to complain to The Tennessean newspaper: "It's extremely annoying, and it's like getting telemarketing calls at work. . . . I think they should have some type of limit on how many times they can call the same number."

A February 1 Letter to the Editor of the Harrisburg Patriot-News, from a woman from East Pennsboro, PA, indicated that she received many political robocalls to her personal cell phone and was billed for each call.

I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment protection for political speech and I want to encourage the free exchange of information about candidates.

But I also believe people should have a right to be protected from the most egregious forms of abuse.

However, the worst of these calls are disturbing people in their homes by forcing them to answer calls and listen again and again. Something must be done.

The bill does not ban robocalls. It merely provides a reasonable framework of tailored time, place, and manner restrictions.

I hope my colleagues join me in supporting the Robocall Privacy Act of 2008.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—HONORING FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL AND RECOGNIZING MARCH 1, 2008 AS WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 447

Whereas the nonprofit organization Friendship Force International was founded in Atlanta in 1977 to promote international understanding and good will;

Whereas, since 1977, nearly 1,000,000 individuals all over the world have traveled as Friendship Force Citizen Ambassadors or

opened their homes as hosts in order to promote international understanding;

Whereas, today, Friendship Force International has more than 35,000 members in 40 States and 58 foreign countries who are building bridges across the cultural barriers that separate people;

Whereas, in order to celebrate on an annual basis its mission to support the cause of peace through international understanding, Friendship Force International has set March 1 of each year as World Friendship Day; and

Whereas Friendship Force International chapters around the world are urging people everywhere to celebrate World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Friendship Force International for promoting international understanding and good will in the world; and

(2) recognizes the celebration of World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008, and asks people everywhere to mark and celebrate the day appropriately.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Resolved, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 110th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Foreign Relations: Mr. Lugar, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Corker, Mr. Voinovich, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Barrasso.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS PRESIDENT OF IRAN MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE HOLOCAUST AND CALLING FOR ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO THE SAME

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 449

Whereas President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "The establishment of the Zionist regime was a move by the world oppressor against the Islamic world";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "There is no doubt that the new wave in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, "Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? But you should know that this slogan, this goal, can certainly be achieved";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that “The skirmishes in the occupied land are part of a war of destiny. The outcome of hundreds of years of war will be defined in Palestinian land. As the Imam said, Israel must be wiped off the map”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on December 14, 2005, that “They have invented a myth that Jews were massacred and place this above God, religions and the prophets”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on December 14, 2005, that “If you have burned the Jews, why don’t you give a piece of Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to Israel. Our question is, if you have committed this huge crime, why should the innocent nation of Palestine pay for this crime?”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on February 11, 2006, that “The real Holocaust is what is happening in Palestine where the Zionists avail themselves of the fairy tale of Holocaust as blackmail and justification for killing children and women and making innocent people homeless”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on February 11, 2006, that “We ask the West to remove what they created sixty years ago and if they do not listen to our recommendations, then the Palestinian nation and other nations will eventually do this for them”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on February 11, 2006, “Remove Israel before it is too late and save yourself from the fury of regional nations”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on April 15, 2006, that “Whether you like it or not, the Zionist regime is heading toward annihilation. The Zionist regime is a rotten, dried tree that will be eliminated by one storm”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on April 24, 2006, that “We say that this fake regime cannot logically continue to live”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on May 11, 2006, that “The West claims that more than six million Jews were killed in World War II and to compensate for that they established and support Israel. If it is true that the Jews were killed in Europe, why should Israel be established in the East, in Palestine?”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on December 12, 2006, that “Thanks to people’s wishes and God’s will the trend for the existence of the Zionist regime is downwards and this is what God has promised and what all nations want . . . Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on June 3, 2007, that “With God’s help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine . . . By God’s will, we will witness the destruction of this regime in the near future”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on September 12, 2007, that “We do not accept or officially recognize Israel. They are occupiers and illegitimate”;

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on January 30, 2008, “I advise you to abandon the filthy Zionist entity which has reached the end of the line. It has lost its reason to be and will sooner or later fall”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s hateful and anti-Semitic statements regarding the State of Israel and the Holocaust; and

(2) calls on all member States of the United Nations to publicly condemn President Ahmadinejad’s statements as a violation of the principles of both the United Na-

tions Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator LAUTENBERG of New Jersey to introduce a resolution condemning the comments made by Iranian President Ahmadinejad on Israel and the Holocaust.

For too long, the civilized world has remained silent while the leader of Iran has threatened Israel’s survival and denied the existence of the Holocaust. Since the inception of his term in office in 2005, President Ahmadinejad has continually been the mouthpiece for the vilest, most base examples of anti-Semitism and hate. Standing against this ceaselessly hostile rhetoric and threats, the State of Israel should be afforded the full support of the United States and the international community. President Ahmadinejad’s denial of the Holocaust—one of the most appalling crimes against humanity the world has ever known—is likewise unacceptable and outrageous. My colleagues and I condemn these comments in the strongest possible terms, and call for all the civilized nations of the world to do likewise.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4018. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3911 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) to the bill S. 2248, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4018. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3911 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) to the bill S. 2248, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 14, strike “, consistent with the requirements of section 101(h) or section 301(4), minimization procedures” and insert “minimization procedures that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4)”.

On page 8, line 13, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 26, beginning on line 22, strike “consistent with the requirements of section 101(h) or section 301(4)” and insert “that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4)”.

On page 32, line 3, strike “subsection (2)” and insert “subsection (b)”.

On page 35, line 6, strike “obtained,” and insert “obtained.”

On page 35, line 18, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 35, line 24, strike “subsection” and insert “section”.

On page 36, line 6, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 36, line 16, strike “168-hour” and insert “7-day”.

On page 40, beginning on line 16, strike “consistent with the requirements of section 101(h) or section 301(4)” and insert “that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4)”.

On page 44, line 15, strike “clause” and insert “subparagraph”.

On page 45, line 15, strike “obtained;” and insert “obtained.”

On page 46, line 2, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 46, line 8, strike “subsection” and insert “section”.

On page 46, lines 14 and 15, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 46, line 24, strike “168-hour” and insert “7-day”.

On page 48, beginning on line 13, strike “orders under section 704(b) or section 705(b)” and insert “orders under section 704(c) or section 705(c)”.

On page 54, beginning on line 22, strike “during the period such directive was in effect” and insert “for information, facilities, or assistance provided during the period such directive was or is in effect”.

On page 60, line 4, strike “reasonably”.

On page 60, line 5, strike “determines” and insert “reasonably determines”.

On page 60, line 10, strike “determines” and insert “reasonably determines”.

On page 60, lines 20 and 21, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 61, line 7, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 65, line 6, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 65, lines 16 and 17, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 67, line 2, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

On page 67, line 4, strike “168 hours” and insert “7 days”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on U.S. oil inventory policies, including the Strategic Petroleum Reserve policies.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov

For further information, please contact Tara Billingsley at (202) 224-4756 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a nomination hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.