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December 3, 2019

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United State Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Senator Markey:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, AARP is pleased to endorse the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act, S.151, bipartisan legislation that will fight back against illegal robocalls. Since most of these unwanted calls are associated with fraud, Americans of all ages will benefit from this important legislation. This bill expands the power of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to levy civil penalties against robocallers, requires service providers to adopt the most current call authentication technology, and promotes interagency cooperation to address the robocall problem.

The Pallone-Thune TRACED Act takes important steps to mandate the adoption of “STIR/SHAKEN” call authentication for Internet Protocol-based providers and offers appropriate alternative compliance methods for non-Internet Protocol voice services. When companies use authentication technology, they can more effectively block unwanted robocalls and other spoofed calls. The expanded authority granted to the FCC to levy civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per call should also act as a deterrent to telephone scammers. All of these measures have the potential to generate substantial benefits for consumers.

AARP strongly supports the provision preventing line item recovery of the STIR/SHAKEN compliance costs. This is a very important consumer protection that will prevent companies from charging customers for call blocking technology. We are also pleased the bill establishes two working groups, one to address the unique burdens robocalls place on hospitals, and an interagency taskforce to help identify bad actors. The inclusion of a consumer representative in the hospital group is also a positive measure.

Through our Fraud Watch Network and our advocacy, AARP is committed to combating illegal robocalls and the scams they often promote. We appreciate that because of your bipartisan leadership on the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act, fewer Americans will receive illegal calls and

fall victim to fraud. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Dawit Kahsai on our Government Affairs staff at dkahsai@arp.org or (202) 434-3761.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy A. LeMond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "L".

Nancy A. LeMond
Executive Vice President and
Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer