

Guess what, some of the most frequent calls, those from telemarketers, not all telemarketers but many, appear with a message Out of the Area or Caller Unknown. Mr. Speaker, telemarketing is a commercial enterprise. As such, what would be the reason for not disclosing a business telephone number? There simply is no reason.

I believe that all commercial enterprises that use the telephone to advertise or sell their services to encourage the purchase of property or goods or for any other good commercial purposes should be required to have the name of their business and their business telephone number disclosed on caller ID boxes. Some telemarketing enterprises purposely block out caller ID devices; yet these same companies know a person's name, address, and telephone number. Is it not only fair that they share their company name and their telephone number so a person can make sure that they are a legitimate company, that they are who they say they are?

Also, if my colleagues are like me and politely ask to have their name removed from their list, I think we should also be able to track the name and number of these telemarketing callers to ensure that they do not call back again. My legislation will simply require any person making a telephone solicitation to clearly identify themselves on these devices.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help separate legitimate telemarketers from fraudulent ones. While the majority of telemarketers are legitimate business people attempting to sell a product or service, there are some unscrupulous individuals and companies violating existing telemarketing rules and scamming many customers.

Consumers pay a monthly service fee to subscribe to the caller ID service because they want to protect their personal privacy and their pocketbooks, but they have little recourse to protest intrusions on their privacy because most telemarketers intentionally block their identity from being transmitted to caller ID devices.

Mr. Speaker, we already require telemarketers to identify themselves over the telephone and via telephone fax transmission. This bill simply extends the protection to consumers with caller ID devices.

Mr. Speaker, I express my thanks for this opportunity. This bill passed unanimously in the last session; and again, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TOWNES) for his support of it.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I say in closing that this is a good bill. I especially appreciate the ability of individuals and the private cause of action that is in the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) for his absolute perseverance in seeing to it that this bill is passed again this year. Hopefully, it will become law and consumers will be much better off for it and he will be a hero. A lot of Americans have been troubled by this, and I commend this bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TOWNES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 90, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. TOWNES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277) recognizing the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 277

Whereas the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the United States has had a significant impact among Hispanic businesses, and in the business community in general;

Whereas the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has served in a key support role, not merely as a business group but also as a civic organization working in the Hispanic-American community; and

Whereas the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has helped to bring entrepreneurship to the Hispanic community as well as helping to pool the resources and talents of Hispanic American entrepreneurs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that it is important to the promotion of the free market process of the United States, to the future success of Hispanic Americans, and to society at large that the special role of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the United States be recognized and further cultivated to the benefit of all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TOWNES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TOWNES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 277.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOWNES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 277, recognizing the important contributions of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Hispanic community is booming in this country. In fact, it has become the fastest-growing segment of our Nation's population; and by the year 2010, Hispanics will become the largest minority group in the United States and by 2050 will comprise nearly 25 percent of the entire U.S. population.

One sector within the Hispanic community that has been experiencing especially rapid growth over the past few years is the small business community. At present, it is estimated that there are over 1.5 million Hispanic-owned small businesses in the country.

Created in 1979 by a handful of dedicated Hispanic leaders, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has helped to realize the enormous potential of the Hispanic business community in these United States, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has worked tirelessly to bring the issues of the Nation's Hispanic-owned businesses to the national economic agenda and drives the engine of economic growth.

Today, we thank them for increasing their contribution to the strength of this country.

It is a good resolution. My mother, Ms. Enola Martinez Tausin, appreciates it personally; and I urge the House to adopt it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 277, which recognizes the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's mission, to actively promote the economic growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs, is important to the free market process and the success of Hispanic Americans. Especially during these times of economic hardship, I fully expect that the Hispanic business community will be an engine for growth and recovery benefiting our whole economy.

In the 5-year period from 1992 to 1997, Hispanic businesses across the Nation grew about 82 percent. The programs, services and support that the chamber continues to offer the more than 200 local chambers across this Nation have been integral to the success and vitality of these Hispanic businesses.

I have seen the effects of the chamber's initiatives in my own 10th Congressional District in Brooklyn. The Hispanic community has produced some of the most exciting entrepreneurial initiatives, enriching Brooklyn for all of its residents. From small stores and bodegas to supermarkets like Compare Market and ABC Beverages to large construction companies like Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies, Hispanic-owned businesses

employ hundreds of residents as well as adding to the economic viability of our neighborhoods.

Since its formation in 1979, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has represented the interests of more than 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States and Puerto Rico. In addition to its annual convention featuring hundreds of domestic and international exhibitors, the chamber also supports Hispanic businesses with legislative and governmental affairs services, business development and marketing services, and active promotion of international trade by networking with Latin American governments.

Through its Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship Initiative, the chamber has also established a \$20 million venture capital fund and, in partnership with the Ford Motor Company, has formed a bilingual National Director of Hispanic Businesses. It has also sewn the seeds of entrepreneurship by sponsoring programs for Hispanic youth such as Bizfest and funding Hispanic scholarship programs.

The chamber's contributions to the Hispanic business community have and will continue to enrich all of our lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in giving the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce the recognition that it deserves.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 277. I am very pleased to see that we are recognizing the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. As a former businessman from the lower Rio Grande Valley in south Texas, I can personally attest to the invaluable assistance that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provides for the Hispanic business community.

The rapid growth of the Latino population has made our community a more crucial part of the American economy than ever before. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has provided the vision and the leadership to promote a spirit of entrepreneurship and an ethic of competitiveness in the Hispanic business community. It has also served as an effective advocate by communicating the community's concerns in the greater business and political arena.

I want to thank the Hispanic Chamber for all of the hard work it has put into achieving economic progress for our community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. In south Texas, we are members of the Texas Association of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, and we have had lots of meetings and we have had lots of successful gatherings, and so that is why I am here to show our support for this group.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 277, recognizing the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

From top-level corporate positions, to Mom and Pop corner stores, Hispanics in America

make tremendous contributions to the nation. Minority owned businesses are growing and creating jobs faster than other companies.

In 1979, realizing the enormous potential of the Hispanic business community in the United States and the need for a national organization to represent its interests, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) was incorporated in my home state of New Mexico, creating a structured organization aimed at developing a business network that would provide the Hispanic community with cohesion and strength. Since its inception, the USHCC has worked towards bringing the issues and concerns of the nation's more than 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses to the forefront.

Throughout the years, the Albuquerque Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has improved the quality of life in the Middle Rio Grande corridor by promoting economic and education activities, with an emphasis on small business.

This has also been a great year for the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber officially opened the doors to their Barelás Job Opportunity Center. This center houses a state-of-the-art technology lab and will focus on work force development and entrepreneur opportunities. The facility is also home to the U.S. Small Business Administration Business Information Center and the Senior Corp of Retired Executives. This Center is a hub for consultations on how to grow a business, start a business, manage a business or capitalize a business.

Over the past 26 years the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce has experienced change and growth that would rival any successful business. I am grateful to the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce for helping to make Albuquerque a better place and improving the quality of life in New Mexico.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want today to address my resolution, H. Con. Res. 277 to recognize the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Speaker, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded in New Mexico in 1979. Headquartered in Washington, DC the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce currently has a network of more than 200 chapters in the United States and its territories. One of those active chapters is in my district, in fact the San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce just held its successful Turkey Trot Golf Tournament during our Thanksgiving break.

The importance of this national organization cannot be overstated, Hispanics have an annual purchasing power of approximately \$500 billion and the Chamber effectively represents the more than 1 million Hispanic-owned businesses. The organization's recent growth has shown its influence in communities not traditionally considered centers for Latino development, locations such as Richmond, Virginia; Charlotte, North Carolina and Minnesota's Twin Cities area.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provides important recognition to its members and supporters through an annual awards program. Moreover, the organization furnishes its membership with a host of critical services, ably guided by the leadership of its President and CEO George Herrera, Chair Ms. Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, who also chairs the DC Chamber of Commerce; and Vice Chairman J.R. Gonzales, President of a communications firm in Austin, Texas.

Importantly, the Chamber has maintained international trade as one of its top long term priorities, even maintaining an office in Mexico City. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provides and promotes the kind of private sector trade initiatives and assistance that I believe all of us can support.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified to be able to bring to the Floor today this resolution to recognize the important contributions of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and ask for the support of members in passing this item.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 277.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding tuberous sclerosis, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 25

Whereas at least two children born each day will be affected with tuberous sclerosis;

Whereas nearly one million people worldwide are known to have tuberous sclerosis;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis affects all races and ethnic groups equally;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis is caused by either an inherited autosomal disorder or by a spontaneous genetic mutation;

Whereas when tuberous sclerosis is genetically transmitted as an autosomal dominant disorder, a child with a parent with the gene will have a 50-percent chance of inheriting the disease;

Whereas two-thirds of the cases of tuberous sclerosis are believed to be a result of spontaneous mutation, although the cause of such mutations is a mystery;

Whereas diagnosis takes an average of 90 days with consultation of at least three specialists;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis frequently goes undiagnosed because of the obscurity of the disease and the mild form the symptoms may take; and

Whereas the Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research, detection, and treatment of tuberous sclerosis and to support the fight against tuberous sclerosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) all Americans should take an active role in the fight against tuberous sclerosis by all means available to them, including early and complete clinical testing and investigating family histories;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers