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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
Chair, Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee
State Capitol, Room 6027
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1132 (Gabriel) – SPONSOR

Dear Assemblymember Santiago,

The Consumer Federation of California is pleased to sponsor AB 1132 (Gabriel), which is before the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee. This bill would prohibit any person from impersonating, “spoofing”, the caller ID information of a federal, state, or local government.

Misrepresenting caller ID information has become ubiquitous and poses significant risks to call recipients. New smartphone applications and websites have made spoofing as easy as typing in the phone number you would like your call to impersonate. This ease of use has allowed for widespread fraud and deception to take place, with nefarious callers and companies impersonating legitimate governmental entities. Fraudsters have recently spoofed the phone numbers for the Rancho Cordova Police Department, demanding payment for the clearing of fake warrants. Legitimate companies have also used spoofing technology to impersonate city entities like the City of Sacramento.

Spoofing activities have increased to the point that State Attorneys General from across the country have called on the FCC to strengthen current rules. It is time that California begin to protect consumers from these harmful and distracting calls.

We respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 1132. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director

CC: Members and Staff of the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee
Assemblymember Gabriel