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**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 6513, An Act Concerning Spoofing.

This proposal prohibits an individual from using a device that alters the caller identification information on the recipient's telephone.

Many people rely on caller identification information to screen unwanted calls, mostly from commercial telemarketers. However, unscrupulous telemarketers have developed technology that can create a false name and phone number to appear on the consumer's telephone caller ID.

This practice -- using fake ID numbers -- is often known as "spoofing."

My office has received numerous consumer complaints about telemarketers spoofing. They provide us with the phone number that they alertly recorded from their caller ID only to discover that the phone number is fake. Indeed, there are websites that sell such technology called spoofcard.com and telespoof.com. In other instances, political opponents have 'borrowed' the name of an elected official and bombarded the official's constituency with repeated calls, leading some to believe it was the elected official calling late at night or early in the morning.

House Bill 6513 will simply ban the use of such technology except when the caller uses a call blocking service.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6513.