

AG Hood leads national support of federal legislation combatting illegal robocalls

Attorney General Jim Hood is taking another step in stopping robocalls by supporting federal legislation known as the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED).

The TRACED Act would assist in combating illegal robocalls by requiring industry-wide implementation of call authentication protocols. Also known as STIR/SHAKEN, this framework helps voice providers prevent spoofed calls because each telephone service provider connecting the call will obtain a digital certificate verifying the calling number. The legislation would also establish an Interagency Working Group, protect carriers who inadvertently block legitimate calls, and penalize people who repeatedly seek access to phone numbers for illegal purposes.

“I don’t know a person in Mississippi who isn’t fed up with the endless amount of robocalls, and as attorney general, this is one more step I’m taking to put an end to it,” General Hood said. “This legislation has broad bipartisan support because it’s something that is affecting everyone.”

General Hood is joined by 54 other state and territory at-

torneys general in sending the attached letter of support to the authors of the legislation.

During an annual meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General this week, General Hood and others will meet with Senators Ed Markey (D- MA) and John Thune (R- SD) to discuss the problem of robocalls and to express their support of the TRACED Act.

“There are no blue robocalls or red robocalls, just unwanted robocalls. This bipartisan effort from all of the nation’s attorneys general is a powerful statement that we need to take action now to stop the scourge of robocalls and robotexts and that there is support from all corners to do so. I thank our leading law enforcement officials for their support for the TRACED Act,” said Sen. Markey.

Unwanted telemarketing calls have been on the rise over the last few years. In 2018, robocalls increased by more than 36%. As chief legal officers of the states and territories, attorneys general lead the enforcement of do-not-call laws and aid consumers who are scammed by illegal calls.

In addition to his support of the TRACED Act, General Hood previously joined the

Mississippi Public Service Commission in publishing a guide for consumers with helpful information to block or filter unwanted calls. He also joined a bipartisan coalition of 34 other attorneys general in calling upon the Federal Communications Commission to create new rules allowing telephone service providers to block more of the illegal robocalls. Additionally, General Hood is part of a multistate working group of AGs that is reviewing the technology used by major telecom companies to combat these calls.

The group hopes to develop a detailed understanding of what is technologically feasible to minimize unwanted robocalls and illegal telemarketing as well as to engage the major telecom companies and encourage them to expedite the best possible solutions for consumers.

In addition to General Hood, the attorneys general or a staff representative attending Tuesday’s meeting with Sens. Markey and Thune include AG Jason Ravnsborg (SD), AG Doug Peterson (NE), AG Gordon MacDonald (NH), AG Josh Stein (NC), and AG Jeff Landry (LA).

*Pay Raise


(Continued from page 1.) a Long Beach Republican, says it remains possible that lawmakers could settle on a different amount, depending on how much money is estimated to be available.



What if Things Only Get Worse?

Christ tells us that they will. He predicts spiritual bailouts, ecological turmoil, and worldwide persecution. Yet in the midst of it all, he contends bravery is still an option. (Matthew 24:4-14)

Things are going to get bad, really bad, before they get better. And when conditions worsen, “See to it that you are not alarmed” (Matt. 24:6 NIV). Jesus chose a stout term for alarmed that he used on no other occasion. It means “to wail, to cry aloud,” as if Jesus counseled the disciples, “Don’t freak out when bad stuff happens.” “See to it...” Bosses and teachers are known to use that phrase. “See to it that you fill out the reports.” Or “Your essay is due tomorrow. See to it that you finish your work.” The words call for additional attention, special focus, extra resolve. Isn’t this what Christ is asking of us? In this dangerous day, on this Faberge’-fragile globe, with financial collapse on the news and terrorists on



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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A friend of mine named Scott shared an absolutely brilliant thought with me when I dropped in on him unannounced at his workplace, a bank, the other day.

Everyone thinks all I want to talk about is parenting, like, you know, police only want to talk about the arrests they’ve made and surgeons only want to talk about operations they’ve performed and coroners only want to talk about autopsies they’ve done. So, I drop in on Scott, just to chat, and he starts in on the only topic I don’t particularly want to talk about, naturally.

In fact, he was very complimentary, telling me that he and his lovely wife, Monica, started reading this column when their children were young and still keep up with it. In the course of almost putting me to sleep, Scott suddenly wakes me up by telling me he has a theory about parents.

“You probably won’t think much of it,” he says, “being the expert and all.”

“It’s probably brilliant,” I say, and it was.

Scott has figured out – on his own but remember he’s been reading my column for more than twenty years now, so I feel entitled to take some credit – that the reason so many parents these days want to be their children’s best friends is because we live in an instant-gratifica-

tion culture and the attempt to be your child’s friend is very likely to bring instant gratification, as in: (a) the parent puts energy into trying to be a friend, (b) the child likes having an adult friend more than he does or would having an adult who accepted the sometimes onerous responsibilities of being an authentic parent, and so (c) the parent receives approval from the child – a synonym for approval being, in this case, instant gratification. (The preceding is known, in literary circles, as a run-on sentence. Thomas Jefferson was famous for them.)

Brilliant! Remember, this was Scott’s idea, but he wants to remain anonymous. Indeed, when done properly by properly-thinking people, parenting is not likely to bring instant gratification. Raising a child out of narcissistic incivility into responsible, compassionate adulthood is, after all, a slog that requires of parents that they sometimes do what they would rather not do, like administer punitive discipline.

“Do you mean, John, that parents should never try to have fun with their kids, like take them to Disney World?”

I’m not the person to ask that question. I’ve been to Disney World four times: once with my own kids when they were young; twice with grandchildren; and once with another adult couple.

I’ve had a genuinely good time at Disney World once. Guess which trip the “once” was. Right! But seriously, I’m not – and neither would Scott – saying that parents or grandparents should never have fun with their kids/grandkids. We’re referring to parents who avoid entirely the responsibilities of parenthood by trying to turn it into something it is not: to wit, a friendship.

When you avoid responsibility for something for which you are, in fact, responsible, you are being irresponsible. So, Scott and I are indeed saying that trying to be your child’s friend is irresponsible. Children do not need 30- or 40-something year-old friends. They need adult parents who are willing to take the occasional heat and perform the occasional distasteful function, like informing a child that he is not yet well-behaved enough to go to Disney World or even the local petting zoo.

I wrote a similar column years ago, by the way. In it, I coined the term “McParenting.” It’s what instant-gratification-oriented parents do. They take the easy way out of everything concerning their kids, including trying to be their best buds. The opposite of McParenting is Real-Life Parenting Done By People Who Raise Children Who May Not Realize Until They Are On Their Own That They Were Raised Well And Call You One Day And Thank You.

That’s the prize. Go for it! *Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.*

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