

AG Lynn Fitch Urges FCC to Adopt Tougher Rules to Stop Illegal Robocalls

“Illegal robocalls cost consumers, law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry about \$13.5 billion a year. Despite the many positive steps we’ve taken to stem the flow of illegal robocalls in recent years, calls continue to come into the country and evade our protective measures. The proposals we support today will stop those calls at their entry point to the U.S. and keep scammers from reaching consumers with unauthenticated and false American phone numbers listed on our caller ID.” Lynn Fitch

Attorney General Lynn Fitch joined a bipartisan coalition of 51 Attorneys General in a comment letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting proposals to stop illegal robocalls that originate outside the country but use U.S. phone numbers in caller ID fields.

“Illegal robocalls cost consumers, law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry about \$13.5 billion a year,” said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. “Despite the many positive steps we’ve

taken to stem the flow of illegal robocalls in recent years, calls continue to come into the country and evade our protective measures. The proposals we support today will stop those calls at their entry point to the U.S. and keep scammers from reaching consumers with unauthenticated and false American phone numbers listed on our caller ID.”

The Attorneys General are supporting a proposed rule by the FCC that would require gateway providers in the U.S. to implement STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication and a series of robocall mitigation providers on foreign-originated calls that seek to use U.S.-based phone numbers. The rule includes requirements that these gateway providers:

- Authenticate foreign-originated calls when the call carries a U.S.-based phone number in the caller ID field,
- Respond to traceback requests for enforcement within 24 hours,
- Engage in mandatory call blocking when a provider receives notification of illegal traffic by the FCC,

- Empower other providers downstream to block calls when a gateway provider is determined to be a bad actor,

- Block calls originating from a “do-not-originate” list,

- Comply with certain “know your customer” obligations, and

- Submit certification to the Robocall Mitigation database describing their mitigation practices.

This comment letter was



A boy from Iowa died recently in Lexington. He was at his Great Aunt Elaine Keys house when he got sick. Some weeks ago I knew he came to visit, but I thought he stayed a few days and went back home. His body was carried to the crime lab in Jackson to figure out the cause of his death. He was also the nephew of Goldia Landfair. I

not tolerate. I believe the public is fast losing patience with Dr. Fauci’s expanding view of executive power, as well as his increasingly combative and dismissive style.

We can all be grateful for the constitutional checks and balances that are placing limits on the President’s power. Recently, a federal district court granted relief to a group of Navy SEALs who refused to get the vaccine. In a rebuke to the President, the judge noted that “there is no COVID-19 exception to the First Amendment.” The Supreme Court also recently heard oral arguments in a challenge to the President’s vaccine mandates on private-sector employees and health workers. I hope the President gets the message and recognizes that Americans will not allow our freedom to become a casualty of the pandemic.

Let States Handle COVID

Shortly after Christmas, President Biden surprisingly admitted that “there is no federal solution” to the pandemic. This was a dramatic shift from his campaign pledge to “shut down” the virus using federal power. But it is also a hopeful sign that the President may be starting to realize what many Americans have long known: that COVID restrictions are best handled at the state and local level. President Biden should put this new realization into practice by rescinding his high-handed mandates. It is time for a modest federal approach that allows our nation to adapt to life with COVID.

signed by the Attorneys General from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah,

Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Attorney General Fitch joined a coalition of 51 Attorneys General on a similar comment letter in August 2021 supporting an earlier

deadline for small telephone service providers to implement STIR/SHAKEN robocall mitigation technology. And last month, the FCC announced that small providers would have to be compliant by June 30, 2022.

Swimming in the Pond

One day, a few days after Christmas the weather was beautiful, eighty degrees, sun was as hot as the days

I swam and sunned this past summer, so I decided to take a dip in our pond right behind our house. Dressed in my black swimsuit and rubbed down with sunscreen I stepped into the greenish water. After about an hour



Peggy's Take

I called to the house to tell my husband to bring me a blanket and come help me get out of the ice and snow coming down in pellets. MISSISSIPPI WEATHER!! We must step outside each morning before we dress for the day. Do we layer-up or put on our shorts? Do we keep these clothes on all day or do we need to carry a change for the noon hour?

I have a friend who moved to a far northern state a few years ago and she said that there winter comes on with a vengeance and last from late October until April. She can depend on these climate conditions. I told her our summer never ends, Mother Nature just throws a few cold days in and then back to summer. We just never know.

I never put away my clothes for any season. They are just mixed in, all together because I might need a summer dress one day and my fur coat the next, so I just leave everything as it is all year.

Our government blames

this on “global warming” Global warming is the gradual increase in the overall temperature generally attrib-

uted to the greenhouse effect caused by pollutants in the air. Well, I disagree. I am @#%\$ years old and I can remember the temps just like this years ago. My mother would always blame the “Missis-

issippi weather” on everybody being sick with colds and sinus issues, a long time ago. I really don’t know what causes the frequent fluctuations in our temps. As one of my friends is fond of saying, “It’s not rocket science.” But I do know that this has been our weather pattern for many years. I think if you are really distressed and bothered with this malady, you need to move out of Mississippi.

My daughter-in-law, Amy, brought this to our Christmas dinner and it was tasty.

TATERTOT CASSE-ROLE. 1 pound of ground chuck, salt, and pepper, 1 can cream of mushroom soup, 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, 16 oz frozen tater tots. Cook ground chuck until done and season with salt and pepper. Stir in mushroom soup and pour into a 9 x 13 dish and layer tater tots on top. Top with cheese and bake 350* for 40 minutes.

Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.



Biden needs to shift mindset on COVID

We can and must learn to live with the virus

The latest wave of COVID-19 came just in time for the holidays, causing headaches for travelers and forcing some families (gratefully, not ours) to cancel family gatherings. This new wave continues to spread rapidly, with more than a million people testing positive in a single day. But unlike previous surges, there is reason to hope that this particular strain of COVID may expedite the end of the pandemic. The Omicron variant, as it is known, appears to be highly contagious but also far less deadly than previous variants, allowing for greater immunity to take hold. As immunity spreads, COVID is expected to become less a national problem and more a matter of personal risk assessment, on par with the annual flu.

Unfortunately, President Biden does not seem ready to pull back on federal intervention. His overbearing mandates seem aimed at eliminating COVID risks completely instead of letting Americans weigh the risks on their own. At this point, it is clear that COVID will remain with us. But with vaccines, COVID treatments, and natural immunity now widespread, the federal government should be getting

out of “crisis” mode. We can adapt and thrive in a world where COVID exists, just as we have adapted to the flu for over 100 years.

Fauci and Biden Have Shifted the Goalposts

Many Americans have grown frustrated by the ever-shifting goals of our pandemic “experts” – most notably Dr. Anthony Fauci, the President’s medical advisor. Initially, Fauci’s goal was to “slow the spread” of COVID so that our health system would not be overwhelmed. Today, his goal seems to be preventing all COVID transmission, insisting that even children ages three and up wear masks in school.

President Biden has also shifted the goalposts. A year ago, he said he opposed vaccine mandates. Now, he is attempting to force two-thirds of the American workforce to get vaccinated under threat of losing their jobs. Mr. Biden also once touted the vaccines as a ticket back to normal life. Today, his Administration continues to require masks on airplanes, trains, and public buses, regardless of vaccination status. Dr. Fauci even suggested that masks should be required forever on airlines, a level of government overreach most Americans will

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Please include all pertinent details, dates, location, name of the event or occasion, all associated people, organizations or groups, reason for event or occasion and NAMES OF ALL PEOPLE PICTURED IN ANY PHOTOGRAPH.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-Holmes County Herald Staff