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VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation of ACA Connects—America’s Communications Association;
Call Authentication Trust Anchor, WC Docket No. 17-97**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 14, 2021, Ross Lieberman and I of ACA Connects—America’s Communications Association (“ACA Connects”) met by teleconference with the Wireline Competition Bureau staff copied on this letter. The meeting was in reference to the Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in the above-captioned proceeding.¹

In the meeting, ACA Connects reiterated its support for the Commission’s proposal to curtail the June 30, 2023 STIR/SHAKEN implementation deadline for those small voice providers—and only those providers—that are at heightened risk of originating large volumes of illegal robocalls.² As we have explained in previous filings, the best path forward for the Commission to achieve that goal is to impose an earlier deadline only on providers that lack any facilities-based voice connections.

During the meeting, we discussed ACA Connects’ proposal for how to operationalize this approach. In particular, ACA Connects has proposed that the Commission require any provider that (a) does not have a Form 477 on file³ or (b) that has reported on its most recent Form 477 a

¹ See *Call Authentication Trust Anchor*, WC Docket No 17-97, Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 21-62 (2021).

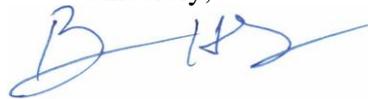
² See Letter From Brian Hurley, ACA Connects, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 17-97 (filed Sept. 3, 2021).

³ It is worth noting that fourteen out of nineteen providers (i.e., nearly 75 percent) that received letters from the Federal Trade Commission in January 2020 “regarding their possible involvement in ‘assisting and facilitating’ unlawful robocalls” had not filed Form 477. See Third FNPRM, ¶ 10.

lack of any facilities-based voice connections⁴ to meet the earlier deadline. A small voice provider that meets neither condition would retain the existing deadline.⁵ This approach would enable the Commission to rely on resources already in its possession to determine which providers are subject to an earlier deadline and to track compliance.⁶ In addition, it could be implemented without the delays involved in seeking approval from the Office of Management Budget, which would be required under the Paperwork Reduction Act were the Commission to implement a new reporting or certification requirement for some or all small voice providers.

This letter is being filed electronically pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules. Please address to the undersigned any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,



Brian Hurley

Cc: Daniel Kahn
Pamela Arluk
Matthew Collins
Jonathan Lechter

⁴ A provider would meet this condition if the voice connections it reports on Form 477 are limited to “over-the-top” interconnected VoIP subscriptions.

⁵ An alternative approach, also discussed during the meeting, is for the Commission to apply the earlier deadline to any provider that lacks any facilities-based voice connections, regardless of whether a provider filed Form 477 or the contents of its filing. Under this approach, the Commission could still rely on Form 477 filings as a reference to help identify providers that are subject to the earlier deadline.

⁶ More specifically, the Commission could identify those small providers that have filed in the Robocall Mitigation Database that are required to meet the earlier deadline based on the data reported in their Form 477s, or on them not having one on file. The Commission could pursue enforcement action against any such provider that (1) failed to update its robocall mitigation certification to indicate that it implemented STIR/SHAKEN by the June 30, 2022 deadline, or that (2) updated its certification, but the Commission determines, based on consultation with the STI Governing Authority or through other investigative means, has not in fact implemented STIR/SHAKEN by that deadline. *See* 47 CFR § 64.6305(b)(5).