



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger,  
Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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### **No-Call List Strengthened**

The state No-Call List, which allows you to prevent telemarketers from calling your home phone, needs strengthening and that is what we did this week in the Missouri Senate. With more and more people relying on cell phones and fax machines to communicate and do business, landline telephones are not the only devices on which telemarketers can prey. As technology advances, we are becoming more and more burdened with junk ads and unwanted solicitations through every communication device we own.

This week, the Missouri Senate approved legislation I sponsored with Sen. Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) that will further protect Missourians from unwanted telecommunication solicitations. Senate Bill 613, allows Missourians to add their cell-phone and business-fax numbers to the state no-call list that currently covers more than 2.2 million landline telephone numbers. The national do-not-call registry



already includes wireless phone numbers, but the Missouri list does not.

The justification is that if the recipient bears a cost for the unwanted solicitation, then the solicitation should not occur. It's not the telemarketers that pay the bill for each cell-phone minute wasted, or the ink and paper that is used to print a fax. The Attorney General's office reports that the No. 1 complaint from small businesses is that they receive too many junk faxes advertising products and services such as health-care plans, travel

packages and real estate property. The companies sending these unsolicited faxes are advertising at the expense of businesses that don't want the solicitation in the first place.

My legislation expands the no-call list to include voice calls to all wireless phones and the sending of graphic images, data communications and text messages to business and residential faxes and phones. Violators would be subject to fines and subsequent actions from the Attorney General.

### **Protecting Your Privacy**

The bill also tackles the problem of businesses disseminating private information about cell-phone customers to anyone willing to pay the price. When these companies sell confidential records, such as a list of all incoming and outgoing calls from the most-recent billing cycle, they are violating consumer-protection laws that were intended to guard the privacy of Missourians. We have included a provision in the bill that forbids wireless providers from releasing and other entities from receiving Missouri cell phone records unless they receive a written request from the owner.

If you haven't yet signed up for either the state or federal no-call list, you can do so free by visiting [www.ago.mo.gov/nocalllaw/nocalllaw.htm](http://www.ago.mo.gov/nocalllaw/nocalllaw.htm) or by calling 1-866-662-2551. For the national registry, visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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