But the process can be abused. And we all have heard stories about people being called over and over and over again at all hours of the day and night.

I believe this is wrong. Not only is it interfering with the privacy rights of Americans, but it can turn people away from the political process itself.

Commercial calls are already limited by the Federal Trade Commission's ''Do Not Call'' list—with millions of individuals subscribing. But political calls were specifically exempted from that list.

Let me be clear: I am not seeking to eliminate all robocalls. Instead, this legislation is carefully designed to provide some safeguards without halting the practice altogether.

The Robocall Privacy Act of 2008 bans political robocalls to any person from 9 p.m. in the evening and a.m. in the morning.

It also bans more than two political robocalls from each campaign to the same telephone number per day, bans the caller from blocking the ''caller identification'' number, and requires an announcement at the beginning of the call identifying the individual or organization making the call and the fact that it is a pre-recorded message. This is to prevent misinformation about the caller.

The enforcement provisions of this bill are simple and intent on stopping the worst of these calls. The bill creates a civil fine for violators of the law, with additional fines for callers who willfully violate the law.

The bill also allows voters to sue to stop those calls immediately, but not receive money damages. A judge can order violators of the law to stop these abusive calls.

Why are these provisions so important? Let me briefly describe some recent incidents:

Hundreds of robocalls woke voters up at 2 in the morning during a 2007 New York election—because of a software programming error. The calls were supposed to occur at 2 p.m.

In the Nebraska 3rd District Congressional Election, voters complained to candidate Scott Kleeb when they received dozens of calls, containing poor-quality versions of his voice. Kleeb's supporters claim that his voice was recorded, and used in an abusive robocall against him.

In the 2006 Congressional elections, many calls wrongly implied that one candidate was making a robocall. The message began with a recorded voice stating that the call contained information about U.S. Representative MELISSA BEAN. Some voters called BEAN's office to complain without listening to the entire message, which eventually identified an opposing party committee as the sponsor—when most voters had hung up. Representative BEAN had to spend campaign funds informing voters she had not made that call.

The National Do Not Call Network—a nonprofit focused on this issue—has indicated voters receive many calls a day. They have reported as much as 37 political phone calls in one day for one voter. That same organization reports that 40 percent of its membership indicated it received between 5 and 9 calls a day during the election season.

In a recent Texas campaign, a negative robocall was sent to voters early in the morning—supposedly from one of the candidates. That candidate immediately protested it was not done on his behalf—but instead was an attempt to smear him by using his name. Voters became furious at the call.

In a Maryland race in November 2006, in a conservative area residents received a middle-of-the-night robocall from the nonexistent ''Gay and Lesbian Push,'' urging them to support one of the candidates. That candidate lost the election, and enraged voters about the false, late-night call.

Repeated robocalls to Tennessee resident Jonathan Gregory caused him to complain to The Tennessean newspaper: ''It's extremely annoying, and it's like getting telemarketing calls at work. . . . I think they should have some type of limit on how many times they can call the same number.''

A February 1 Letter to the Editor of the Harrisburg Patriot-News, from a woman from East Pennsboro, PA, indicated that she received many political robocalls to her personal cell phone and was billed for each call.

I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment protection for political speech and I want to encourage the free exchange of information about candidates.

But I also believe people should have a right to be protected from the most egregious forms of abuse.

However, the worst of these calls are disturbing people in their homes by forcing them to answer calls and listen again and again. Something must be done.

The bill does not ban robocalls. It merely provides a reasonable framework of tailored time, place, and manner restrictions.

I hope my colleagues join me in supporting the Robocall Privacy Act of 2008.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—HONORING FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL AND RECOGNIZING MARCH 1, 2008 AS WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 447

Whereas the nonprofit organization Friendship Force International was founded in Atlanta in 1977 to promote international understanding and good will;

Whereas, since 1977, nearly 1,000,000 individuals all over the world have traveled as Friendship Force Citizen Ambassadors or opened their homes as hosts in order to promote international understanding;

Whereas, today, Friendship Force International has more than 35,000 members in 40 States and 58 foreign countries who are building bridges across the cultural barriers that separate people;

Whereas, in order to celebrate on an annual basis its mission to support the cause of peace through international understanding, Friendship Force International has set March 1 of each year as World Friendship Day; and

Whereas Friendship Force International chapters around the world are urging people everywhere to celebrate World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Friendship Force International for promoting international understanding and good will in the world; and

(2) recognizes the celebration of World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008, and asks people everywhere to mark and celebrate the day appropriately.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Resolved, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 110th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Foreign Relations: Mr. Lugar, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Corker, Mr. Voinovich, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Barrasso.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS PRESIDENT OF IRAN MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE HOLOCAUST AND CALLING FOR ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO THE SAME

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, MS. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 449

Whereas President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that ''The establishment of the Zionist regime was a move by the world oppressor against the Islamic world'';

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that ''Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury'';

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that ''There is no doubt that the new wave in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world'';

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, ''Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? But you should know that this slogan, this goal, can certainly be achieved'';