

The National Family Privacy Protection Association

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April 9, 2002

Office of the Secretary
Room 159
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

Re: Telemarketing Rulemaking – Comment: FTC File No. R411001

Dear Commissioner Muris,

(1) We are sick and tired of the **2 Billion unsolicited telephone calls each month** from intrusive telemarketing companies who invade our homes at all hours of the day and evening trying to sell us everything from vinyl siding and newspapers to "all-expense paid" vacations and cemetery plots. We are **The National Family Privacy Protection Association (NFPPA)**. NFPPA is a nationwide, not-for-profit, grassroots organization of citizens dedicated to protecting our Rights of Privacy, including **our right to eat a family meal without interruption, our right to watch the evening news in its entirety, and our right to let our babies and young children sleep in peace.** With 100 telemarketing phone calls placed each year for every man, woman, and child in the United States and an estimated 40 billion dollars in telemarketing fraud, we are committed to take corrective action.

(2) **Fortunately, thanks to your organization, we're no longer alone.** The FTC has recently announced a proposed rule change that would prohibit telemarketing companies regulated by the FTC from calling consumers **IF** their number is registered on a **National "Do-Not-Call" list**. **The National Family Privacy Protection Association strongly supports this proposal.** Further, we have recently created a partnership with **1-800-DoNotCall** in an effort to build the grassroots support necessary to turn this proposal into a reality. 1-800-DoNotCall has just completed a comprehensive "Request for Information" briefing for your organization and members of Congress to review. In it, we endorse 1-800-DoNotCall's recommendation that consumers be able to phone 1-800-DoNotCall to place their phone number on a National "Do-Not-Call" list. Additionally, we endorse the recommendation that we, the consumers, should have the ability to be awarded **substantial monetary damages**, since we're the people who have to pick up the phone and be interrupted by these often rude and persistent company representatives. 1-800-DoNotCall has even agreed to provide a reporting system so that consumers could report violators to the FTC simply by calling 1-800-DoNotCall.

(3) While state laws have been helpful in reducing the amount of unsolicited telephone calls, we feel that a national registry would go much further toward protecting consumer's privacy rights and at the same time eliminate a lot of confusion among consumers about how to get on a Do-Not-Call list. If you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call me. You may reach me at (904) 280-1155 or e-mail me at joe@nfppa.org. Thank you for reviewing our comments.

Best regards,

Joe Arnall
President, NFPPA