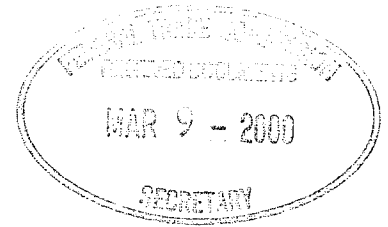


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March 5, 2000



FTC  
Office of the Secretary, Rm 159  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20580

Ref: Telemarketing Review  
Comment FTC File No. P994414

To The FTC Secretary:

Since I do not have access to the Federal Register, I would like to comment for myself and many others who I have contact with and probably wouldn't see the notice asking for comments on telemarketing in general.

Telemarketing has become an intrusive, upsetting, tiring practically daily factor in my own and many others' lives. Many younger relatives and acquaintances have contracted for caller I.D. on their telephones even though some can't really afford the extra charges. It is also a hindrance sometimes in trying to call those individuals since they will not answer the telephone, fearing a telemarketer calling, if they don't have a known telephone number indicated. I have used a calling card which doesn't register my telephone number and have been told that they almost didn't answer due to no telephone number indicated. Older relatives and myself included, have run to the telephone from some task only to find that it is a telemarketer. Some days this happens one after another until it greatly agitates those people and myself. I have found that many people are not aware that they can request that their name can be removed from the calling list by requesting it. But what good does that do any way, other telemarketers just take the previous telemarketer's place.

I have had several occasions when I tell the caller that I am not interested but they persist in pitching their wares.

It used to be that only far out telemarketers called, however; now even well known businesses also have their telemarketers. It is so irritating that it is detrimental to people's health, especially the elderly. I have noted younger people becoming quite upset also.

Personally, being a diabetic, I have to eat on time and invariably, I will receive telemarketing calls while I am eating, even from diabetic supplies companies!

We all would be thankful if telemarketing would be outlawed. Thank you.

Sincerely, Karen Ver Steegt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Ver Steegt".