

Chair Fagan and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness,

I support HB 3031 which requires prerecorded or synthesized voice message calls using automatic dialing, accurately and truthfully identify the caller provide a telephone number or other contact information to request do not call.

I'd go one step further. **Make caller ID spoofing a crime.**

My husband and I were [victims of tax-related identity theft](#) on March 12th last year.

So, in January, when I visited my sister in Colorado, I was alarmed when I answered a call identified as "government." This was the second time my sister and her husband received a recorded message urgently telling them to call a number because the police were on their way because of taxes they owed. I was struck by the fact that the caller ID number was correct for the Richmond IRS.

I subsequently learned about "spoofing"—where callers can deliberately falsify the telephone number and/or name relayed as the Caller ID information to disguise the identity of the calling party.[\[1\]](#)

*Bluff my call*[\[2\]](#)... and *Change Your Caller ID and Voice From Any Phone!* It's that simple.

The IRS warns of phone spoofing technology that has been used in a nationwide scam where consumers are harassed into paying taxes they don't owe[\[3\]](#) or to divulge SSNs[\[4\]](#) that allow fraudulently filed tax returns.

Wikipedia lists other scams of fraudsters using spoofing technology.[\[5\]](#) Since 2006, Congress has failed multiple times to pass the "Truth in Caller ID Act," which would make caller ID spoofing a crime.

*My husband and I will never know how our identities were stolen.* But a peculiar call to our home preceding the fraudulent filing leads me to speculate whether a "spoofed" call two days earlier confirmed information that allowed the fraudulent return to go through.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, I answered a strange call at home asking if my husband (a Kaiser radiologist) was responsible for a claim—supposedly from UnitedHealth Care. The caller said he was from the demographics department and called our home because that was what was listed through the NPI (National Provider ID.) His (Filipino?) accent did not match up with the Minnesota caller ID number (952-367-227)--a number which is always busy.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, our accountant was unsuccessful when he attempted to e-file our taxes. That day, the IRS informed us that there were two attempts (on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>) to file taxes using our separate SSNs, but jointly filing with two new virtual spouses! (We have filed jointly since married in 1988 and with the same accountant since we moved to Portland in 1990.)

I subsequently read this past tax season, that doctors were targeted with tax ID theft and that the NPI database<sup>[6]</sup> was implicated.

Pass this bill, but amend it to make caller ID spoofing a crime.

*Kris Alman MD*

[1] <https://www.fcc.gov/guides/caller-id-and-spoofing>

[2] <http://bluffmycall.com/features/>

[3] <http://money.cnn.com/2014/08/13/pf/taxes/irs-phone-scam/index.html>

[4] <http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-03-2013/beware-phony-irs-agents.html?intcmp=AE-BLIL-DOTORG>

[5] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caller\\_ID\\_spoofing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caller_ID_spoofing)

[6] <http://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/04/states-spike-in-tax-fraud-against-doctors/>