ctia™

November 5, 2019

The Honorable Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
The Honorable Michael Padilla, Vice Chair
Science, Technology & Telecommunications Committee
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: **Support for HB 541**

Dear Chair Sariñana, Vice Chair Padilla and Committee Members:

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write in support of House Bill 541, which updates New Mexico's statutes regarding cramming. This bill reflects changes in the marketplace while continuing to protect consumers.

The wireless industry works to fight cramming, which is the illegal act of placing unauthorized charges on consumers' bills. However, it is important to allow consumers to choose to have authorized charges placed on their bills. This bill merely modernizes New Mexico's cramming statute to allow for consumer-authorized charges. The bill allows providers to bill customers for third party services related to their wireless device, such as insurance for devices and services a consumer wishes to purchase through their provider.

HB 541 responds to consumer demand by allowing consumer-authorized charges to be placed on their bills. The passage of HB 541 will provide greater consumer choice by allowing consumers to enjoy the convenience and cost savings of one-stop-shop billing for third party applications and services they purchase to use as part of their technology experience. Additionally, passage of this bill will provide relief for businesses by lessening the administrative burden and unnecessary expenditures for national companies, who use national billing platforms, and allows New Mexico to join 49 other states that allow third party billing should consumers choose it.

The wireless industry supports passage of HB 541 and commends New Mexico's efforts to update their statute to allow consumers the ability to make choices regarding charges on their wireless bills while still being protected from unauthorized charges.

Sincerely,

Gerard Keegan
Vice President
State Legislative Affairs