



**Testimony of
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CTIA
Opposition to Louisiana House Bill 379
Before the Louisiana House Commerce Committee
May 11, 2020**

Chair Davis, Vice Chair Hilferty, and members of the Committee, on behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I provide this testimony in opposition to House Bill 379, which sets state-specific notification and phone numbering assignment requirements regarding the provision of wireless phone numbers to minors. While well intentioned, this bill is unnecessary, impractical to implement, and runs afoul of federal law.

This bill is unnecessary because should any consumer find that they are experiencing difficulties regarding their assigned number, they have the option to notify their provider and request that their number be changed. Efforts are made to take numbers out of use that are connected to nefarious activities, and should the provider be made aware of this, the numbers can be taken out of use or otherwise managed appropriately. Also, the wireless industry offers a number of tools, features and information to help consumers choose and manage their wireless devices and services. More information can be found at

<https://www.ctia.org/growing-wireless>.

Furthermore, the mandates this bill would impose are unworkable and impractical to implement. A service provider sales associate would not have access to information regarding to whom or how recently any phone number was assigned prior to such number being



assigned to a new customer. Providers do not have methods for tracking or managing whether or not a phone number is being used by a minor. The majority of wireless service accounts are paid for by adults if they are used by a minor. Most customers opt for family plans that are shared among family members: providers generally do not know which users in a family plan have use of which phone numbers, and families often share or swap devices among their members.

Moreover, the requirements in this bill would run afoul of federal law. The assignment of telephone numbers is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (47 CFR Part 52) and preempts regulation of this issue at the state level. Federal regulations mandate that phone numbers previously assigned to residential customers may be aged for no fewer than 45 days and no more than 90 days; thus, this proposed legislation conflicts with federal policy.

Additionally, wireless providers provide service to customers on a nationwide basis; bills such as this, even if it were possible to implement, would create a patchwork of regulation across the country, the cost of which would be borne by all customers.

CTIA, therefore respectfully requests that this bill not be moved.