



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DOYLE

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

94th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: REP. STEVE DOYLE
(608) 266-0631

Rep. Doyle Cosponsors Bill to Ban Robo-Calls

MADISON - We all hate those annoying political calls with a recording on the other end. "Robo-calls," as they are known, are rude and impersonal and they always call right when you are sitting down to a nice family dinner. During this last election cycle, I talked with constituents who told me that they often received 10 of these calls a day, sometimes from the same candidate. It got so bad that some people stopped answering their phones whenever a strange number came up until after the election. For years Wisconsin has had a comprehensive "No Call List" that protects citizens from receiving unwanted telemarketing calls. Now it's time to do something about the political calls.

That's why I am now cosponsoring a bill that would prohibit robo-calling for political messages. This proposal, currently called LRB-0985/1, would prohibit the use of automatic telephone dialing devices for the purpose of getting you to support or oppose a political candidate, party or campaign. If this bill passes, every call you receive from a campaign will have a real-live person on the other end, not just a recording. We can't stop all calls, but at least you will have someone to whom you can express your thoughts or frustrations.

Unlike most other states, Wisconsin currently has no laws restricting robo-calling. Now the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will be able to investigate and, if necessary, enforce penalties against any violations of this law.

This legislation is currently circulating for additional cosponsors and will be introduced on the floor soon. If you have any questions about this proposed bill or any other legislative topic, please feel free to contact me at (608) 266-0631 or rep.doyle@legis.wi.gov.

Now if we could only do something about all those television ads...
