



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

Carr Proposes Call Center Onshoring, English Proficiency Requirements

Rulemaking Opens New Front in Robocall Crackdown, Too, While Bringing Back American Jobs and Improving Customer Service

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2026—Today, FCC Chairman Brendan Carr announced that the Commission will be voting this month on proposals regarding the use of offshore call centers by certain U.S. businesses. First, the FCC will vote on reforms that can encourage businesses to bring call center jobs back the U.S. Second, the FCC will explore ways to improve customer service at existing call centers, including a proposal to require call takers to be proficient in American Standard English. Third, the FCC will address illegal robocalls that originate abroad by seeking comment on the targeted use of tariffs or bonds. These proposals focus on the customer service centers run by the communications providers regulated by the FCC.

Chairman Carr issued the following statement:

“Americans get frustrated when they call a U.S. business and end up connecting with a call center located abroad. Language and communications barriers often make it difficult for callers to promptly and efficiently get the results they want. And these foreign-based call centers often create a heightened security risk as well. So the FCC will be voting on several proposals designed to reshore call center jobs and improve the customer service experience at the ones that remain—including by seeking comment on requiring call center workers to be proficient in American Standard English. The FCC will also be opening up a new front in our efforts to block illegal robocalls from abroad by examining the targeted use of tariffs or bonds.”

Additional Background Information:

Over the past few decades, many corporations shifted their customer service and call center operations from America to a range of foreign countries – with nearly 70 percent of U.S. companies outsourcing at least one department. These moves not only took jobs away from communities across the country, they created a range of other problems as well. Today, consumers in the U.S. regularly experience frustration and poor customer service when they connect with a call center located abroad. There can be language, communication, and other barriers that make it difficult if not impossible for consumers to get a satisfactory resolution to their problem.

The over-reliance on foreign call centers is a risk to privacy, data protection, and even national security. Call centers often work with customers’ sensitive payment and account information. Yet, many foreign countries do not impose the same legal protections as the United States. In addition, foreign call centers have contributed to the onslaught of robocalls facing American households and businesses, often leveraging the training and the infrastructure used to operate legitimate call centers to defraud Americans.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposed today would seek comment on:

- Ways to encourage and facilitate the onshoring of call centers, including limits on call volume from overseas call centers, empowering consumers to transfer calls to a U.S.-based location, or requiring covered providers to disclose the location of the call center during the customer interaction;
- Steps the FCC can take to improve the customer service and security of communications between an American and any call center that remains abroad, including requiring workers at call centers to be proficient in American Standard English and otherwise be trained appropriately for resolving issues with U.S. customers;
- How best to address illegal robocall scams that originate inside foreign call centers, such as ways we can take the profit out of those operations (including specifically the idea of requiring the use of bonds or tariffs in appropriate circumstances); and,
- The scope of the FCC's legal authority, including the types of covered businesses, applicability of rules to call centers operated by communications providers regulated by the FCC, acknowledging limits on the FCC's authority to address all potential call centers located overseas.

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**Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov / (202) 418-0500
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