

September 20, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Chairman, House Oversight Committee
2163 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Pallone, Representative Cummings, Senator Wicker and Senator Alexander;

A recent Chicago Tribune investigation as well as published research on cell phone radiation has revealed that some of the most popular phones being used by consumers today could emit up to 5 to 11 times as much radiation as permitted under current FCC radiation exposure guidelines, despite claims by manufacturers that these phones meet all FCC requirements for safety.^{1,2}

Cell phones are not tested the way we use them today, such as in a shirt pocket or touching the body. Instead, the cell phone testing protocol prescribed by the FCC more than two decades ago and still in use today allows a separation distance between the phone and body. This constitutes an unrepresentative and irrelevant user scenario, producing radiation results that are not only inaccurate but also result in untested levels of radiation exposure for consumers. Yet manufacturers are not required to test phones in body contact positions before placing them on the market. Radiation levels of cellphones tested close to the body exceed FCC legal limits.

¹[We tested popular cellphones for radiofrequency radiation. Now the FCC is investigating.](#) By Sam Roe, The Chicago Tribune, August 21, 2019

² Gandhi, O. P. (2019). [Microwave Emissions From Cell Phones Exceed Safety Limits in Europe and the US When Touching the Body](#). IEEE Access, 7, 47050-47052.

Considering that the outdated FCC testing protocol is based on the exposure of a 220-pound man, this is especially concerning for children and young adults, who are among the most active users of cell phones. Pediatricians have long called for an update to this outdated cell phone test method noting that children's cell phone radiation absorption can be higher by a factor of 2 in a child's brain and higher by a factor of 10 in the bone marrow of the skull³.

We call on you and the Committees of which you are Chairs to conduct immediate hearings on the accuracy, reliability and appropriateness of cell phone safety testing, so that the FCC can update and improve its testing procedures to protect the health and safety of all U.S. citizens.

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