

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley United States Senate 135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Maggie Hassan United States Senate 324 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Hassan:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and older, is pleased to endorse the *Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act*. Your legislation would streamline and improve the assistance provided by the Social Security Administration to individuals whose Social Security number has been stolen or misused.

Identity theft and fraud are at an all-time high in the United States, and the range of fraud that can be committed with a stolen Social Security number is truly staggering. In 2024, the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline connected with more than 100,000 people. Fraud related to identity fraud was and continues to be a common theme. In fact, thieves stole a staggering \$47 billion through identity fraud in 2024 alone. To make matters worse, victims often face a daunting and frustrating process to reclaim their identity. Streamlining and improving the assistance that the Social Security Administration provides to victims of these crimes will be welcomed by those who are caught in an often-overwhelming situation.

AARP is strongly committed to protecting consumers from a wide range of scams and fraud and supports your legislation to improve the service provided by the Social Security Administration for victims of identity theft. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Chad Mullen on our Government Affairs staff at <a href="mailto:chmullen@aarp.org">chmullen@aarp.org</a>.

Sincerely,

Bill Sweeney

Senior Vice President Government Affairs