June 23, 2021

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Wenstrup and Blumenauer:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, AARP is pleased to endorse the Social Security Child Protection Act of 2021. Your legislation would provide important protections to younger Americans and their families whose Social Security number has been compromised due to the theft of their documentation.

Social Security numbers are vital to the identity and financial well-being of every American, and many parents apply for Social Security numbers for their children soon after birth. These numbers are used for a wide variety of purposes, including employment, establishing financial accounts, securing loans, and filing taxes. The range of fraud that can be committed when a Social Security number has been compromised is truly staggering, and the time and effort required to reassert one’s financial identity after a theft can be daunting.

For these reasons, AARP believes Social Security numbers must be afforded the highest level of privacy protection. Companies, government agencies, and individuals should protect the unauthorized use, display, collection, and sale of these important numbers. Private and government organizations should also work to improve the assistance offered to individuals whose Social Security number has been compromised, and we support your efforts to provide new Social Security numbers to children whose cards were stolen during transmission.

AARP is strongly committed to safeguarding the confidentiality of Social Security numbers and protecting American citizens of all ages from fraud and identity theft. We thank you for introducing this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Tom Nicholls on our Government Affairs staff at tnicholls@aarp.org or (202) 434-3765.

Sincerely,

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs