



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Sinema, Grassley, Wyden, and Crapo:

On behalf of our 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, AARP 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 2021, the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline connected with more than 130,000 people. Fraud related to identity theft and Social Security imposter scams were among the top five reported scams. In fact, consumers lost a staggering \$56 billion to identity fraud in 2020 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 process for victims of identity theft. 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,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney".

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs