

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H.R. 982

To establish an office within the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 11, 2021

Mr. Deutch (for himself, Mr. Welch, and Mr. Buchanan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish an office within the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Seniors Fraud Preven-
- 5 tion Act of 2021".
- 6 SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD TAR-
- 7 GETING SENIORS.
- 8 (a) Establishment of Advisory Office.—The
- 9 Federal Trade Commission shall establish an office within
- 10 the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the purpose of ad-

- 1 vising the Commission on the prevention of fraud tar-
- 2 geting seniors and to assist the Commission with the fol-
- 3 lowing:

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- 4 (1) OVERSIGHT.—The advisory office shall
 5 monitor the market for mail, television, internet,
 6 telemarketing, and recorded message telephone call
 7 (hereinafter referred to as "robocall") fraud tar8 geting seniors and shall coordinate with other rel9 evant agencies regarding the requirements of this
 10 section.
 - (2) Consumer Education.—The Commission through the advisory office shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and other relevant agencies—
 - (A) disseminate to seniors and families and caregivers of seniors general information on mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud targeting seniors, including descriptions of the most common fraud schemes;
 - (B) disseminate to seniors and families and caregivers of seniors information on reporting complaints of fraud targeting seniors either to the national toll-free telephone number estab-

lished by the Commission for reporting such
complaints, or to the Consumer Sentinel Network, operated by the Commission, where such
complaints will become immediately available to
appropriate law enforcement agencies, including
the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the attorneys general of the States;

(C) in response to a specific request about

- (C) in response to a specific request about a particular entity or individual, provide publically available information of enforcement action taken by the Commission for mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud against such entity; and
- (D) maintain a website to serve as a resource for information for seniors and families and caregivers of seniors regarding mail, television, internet, telemarketing, robocall, and other identified fraud targeting seniors.
- (3) Complaints.—The Commission through the advisory office shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, establish procedures to—
 - (A) log and acknowledge the receipt of complaints by individuals who believe they have been a victim of mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud in the Consumer

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1	Sentinel Network, and shall make those com-
2	plaints immediately available to Federal, State,
3	and local law enforcement authorities; and
4	(B) provide to individuals described in sub-
5	paragraph (A), and to any other persons, spe-
6	cific and general information on mail, television,
7	internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud, in-
8	cluding descriptions of the most common
9	schemes using such methods of communication.
10	(b) Commencement.—The Commission shall com-
11	mence carrying out the requirements of this section not
12	later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
13	Act.

 \bigcirc