

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 444

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of 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 2017”.

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

1 the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the purpose of ad-
2 vising the Commission on the prevention of fraud tar-
3 geting seniors and to assist the Commission with the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (1) OVERSIGHT.—The advisory office shall
6 monitor the market for mail, television, Internet,
7 telemarketing, and recorded message telephone call
8 (hereinafter referred to as “robocall”) fraud tar-
9 geting seniors and shall coordinate with other rel-
10 evant agencies regarding the requirements of this
11 section.

12 (2) CONSUMER EDUCATION.—The Commission
13 through the advisory office shall, in consultation
14 with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the
16 Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal
17 Inspection Service, and other relevant agencies—

18 (A) disseminate to seniors and families and
19 caregivers of seniors general information on
20 mail, television, Internet, telemarketing, and
21 robocall fraud targeting seniors, including de-
22 scriptions of the most common fraud schemes;

23 (B) disseminate to seniors and families
24 and caregivers of seniors information on report-
25 ing complaints of fraud targeting seniors either

1 to the national toll-free telephone number estab-
2 lished by the Commission for reporting such
3 complaints, or to the Consumer Sentinel Net-
4 work, operated by the Commission, where such
5 complaints will become immediately available to
6 appropriate law enforcement agencies, including
7 the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the at-
8 torneys general of the States;

9 (C) in response to a specific request about
10 a particular entity or individual, provide pub-
11 lically available information of enforcement ac-
12 tion taken by the Commission for mail, tele-
13 vision, Internet, telemarketing, and robocall
14 fraud against such entity; and

15 (D) maintain a Web site to serve as a re-
16 source for information for seniors and families
17 and caregivers of seniors regarding mail, tele-
18 vision, Internet, telemarketing, robocall, and
19 other identified fraud targeting seniors.

20 (3) COMPLAINTS.—The Commission through
21 the advisory office shall, in consultation with the At-
22 torney General, establish procedures to—

23 (A) log and acknowledge the receipt of
24 complaints by individuals who believe they have
25 been a victim of mail, television, Internet, tele-

1 marketing, and robocall fraud in the Consumer
2 Sentinel Network, and shall make those com-
3 plaints immediately available to Federal, State,
4 and local law enforcement authorities; and

5 (B) provide to individuals described in sub-
6 paragraph (A), and to any other persons, spe-
7 cific and general information on mail, television,
8 Internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud, in-
9 cluding descriptions of the most common
10 schemes using such methods of communication.

11 (b) COMMENCEMENT.—The Commission shall com-
12 mence carrying out the requirements of this section not
13 later than one year after the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

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