

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:

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 tar-
8 geting seniors and shall coordinate with other rel-
9 evant agencies regarding the requirements of this
10 section.

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

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

22 (B) disseminate to seniors and families
23 and caregivers of seniors information on report-
24 ing complaints of fraud targeting seniors either
25 to the national toll-free telephone number estab-

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

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

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

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

22 (A) log and acknowledge the receipt of
23 complaints by individuals who believe they have
24 been a victim of mail, television, internet, tele-
25 marketing, and robocall fraud in the Consumer

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.

○