



Democratic Club Advocacy Committee

Democratic Club
of Leisure World
Advocacy Committee
3700 Rossmoor Blvd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Judiciary Committee Members:

February 11, 2020

We are members of the Advocacy Committee of Democratic Club of Leisure World, located in Silver Spring, MD. Our community has more than 8,100 residents. We want to let you know that we support SB 407 "Office of the Attorney General - Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit" bill, and its House companion, HB 745.

Our community is gated, but we have no protection against telephone, mail and similar scams for which no barrier exists. People who prey on seniors, and there are many, have technology at their command that spoof the receiver to believing they may know the caller. Scammers show no shame in stealing identities, creating doubt and confusion in the minds of seniors and using technology, phones, and mail to do so.

The 2019 Consumer Sentinel of the FTC found the top three fraudulent actions include Identity Theft, Imposter Scams, and Telephone and Mobile Scams. There were 1.7 million reported incidents of which 23% reported a loss. Total losses totaled \$1.9 billion.

The overall median loss was \$320. People between 70-79 experience a median loss of \$800 and those over 80 who reported a lost had a median loss of \$1,600.

Clearly, the elderly are lucrative targets.

(<https://public.tableau.com/profile/federal.trade.commission#!/vizhome/ConsumerSentinel/Infographic>)

We believe SB 407 and HB 745 will send a clear message to perpetrators: Seniors are not alone. We will have the full force of a dedicated staff in the Maryland State Attorney General's office behind our efforts, both for civil and criminal prosecutions. I hope that other states will follow Maryland's lead.

We are fortunate to live in a state where these vicious acts against vulnerable seniors have already been slowed down by the State Attorney General's office as well local law enforcement.

Please pass SB 407 and HB 745.

Thank you.

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