



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm
facebook.com/aarpm

**HB 1008 – Fiduciary Institutions – Exploitation of Seniors and Vulnerable Adults –
Protections and Required Referral
(Vulnerable Adult Banking Protection Act)
Economic Matters Committee
March 10, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. My name is Judith Boivin. I am a resident of Montgomery County and an AARP Maryland Fraud Network volunteer.

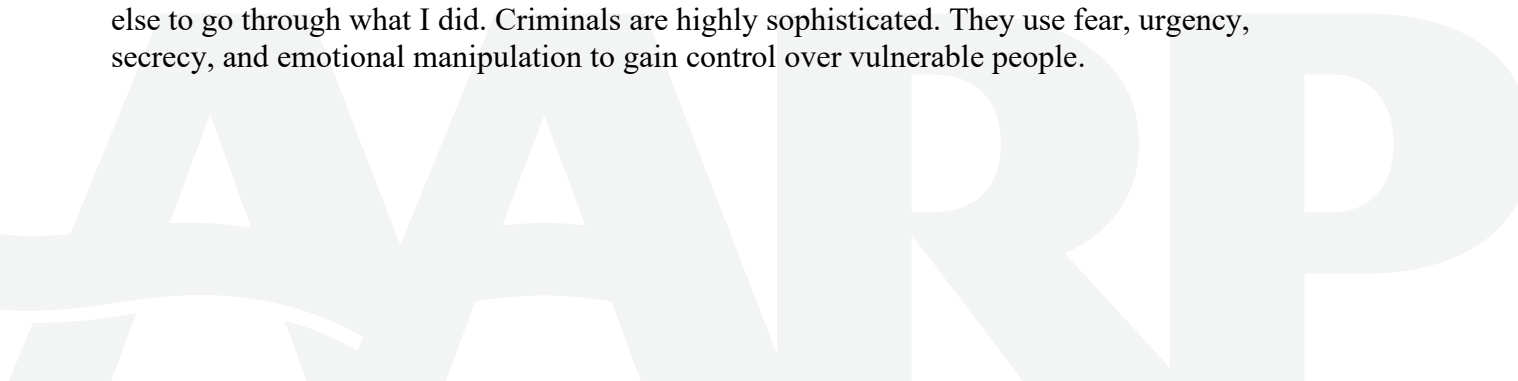
I am here today because I am, unfortunately, a victim of a devastating scam. In late September 2023, while driving my husband to a medical appointment, I received a call that appeared to come from the Rockville Police Department. The caller claimed I was under investigation for fraud and money laundering. He told me that multiple bank accounts had been opened in my name using my Social Security number.

The call was then transferred to someone who identified himself as an FBI cyber security director. He knew details about my life and described an elaborate federal investigation and told me that because criminals were using my identity, I needed to cooperate in a covert operation to prove my innocence. I believed him.

From that point on, he called me every morning and evening. He insisted that I tell no one, not even my husband. He said I would need to liquidate every one of my financial accounts to clear my name. I asked why it had to be cash, but he always had an answer. And over several weeks, I withdrew my retirement savings, my IRAs, and joint savings with my husband. In total, the scammers stole \$595,098, my entire retirement savings.

By the time the calls stopped in mid-December, the criminals had disappeared. I contacted the Rockville Police and later spoke with a real FBI agent, who told me that the supposed “FBI official” I had been speaking with was, in fact, a known imposter. My case remains under investigation.

The financial loss has been catastrophic. My husband has Parkinson’s disease, and this money was to support both of us for the rest of our lives. Now, not only is that gone, but we are facing tax penalties from the forced withdrawals. I share my story today because I do not want anyone else to go through what I did. Criminals are highly sophisticated. They use fear, urgency, secrecy, and emotional manipulation to gain control over vulnerable people.



HB 1008 is essential because it empowers financial institutions to intervene when they detect red flags of exploitation. If these protections had been in place in 2023, my bank might have stopped the withdrawals or at least questioned the suspicious activity. These safeguards can prevent tragedy, not just respond to it.

I respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1008 a favorable report. Thank you for your time, your attention, and your commitment to protecting vulnerable adults in our state.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aarp.org or 410-310-0374.