

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

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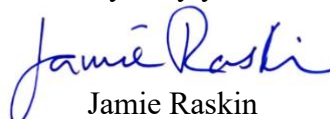
Dear Friends:

In recent years, huge numbers of Americans have fallen victim to financial scams, often perpetrated by nefarious actors abroad who make off with the victims' life savings. Adding insult to injury, scam victims and Americans who suffer a personal disaster have been on the hook for new tax liabilities since 2017. The nation's seniors are especially at risk. They lost \$3.4 billion to scams in 2023 alone.

Marylanders have fallen victim to these rip-offs. My constituent, Judith, was scammed out of her life savings by a sophisticated gang of cybercriminals and was then struck with a hefty tax burden on money she no longer had. Last Congress, I introduced H.R.6938, the Tax Relief for Victims of Crimes, Scams, and Disasters Act to reinstate the casualty and theft loss deduction previously available to taxpayers like Judith. Individuals who suffer these devastating losses shouldn't be re-victimized by the tax code, and I am working with my Democratic and Republican colleagues in the 119th Congress to reinstate this longstanding principle. I am heartened to hear of a similar initiative led by Delegate Joe Vogel to relieve this burden on the state level and to harmonize Maryland's tax code with what we aim to restore on the federal level.

Our government should work as an instrument for the common good—protecting Americans against robbery, theft and online scams—not compounding victims' hardship with hard-hearted, you're-on-your-own-jack tax laws. I am happy to emphasize the importance of H.R.6938.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress