



601 E Street, NW | Washington, DC 20049
202-434-2277 | 1-888-OUR-AARP | 1-888-687-2277 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org | twitter: @aarp | facebook.com/aarp | youtube.com/aarp

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Casey:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP is pleased to endorse the bipartisan Senior Safe Act of 2017 (S. 223). This legislation protects individuals at financial institutions who disclose suspected financial exploitation of senior citizens to appropriate agencies, and requires the financial institution to provide training on identifying and handling of potential exploitation.

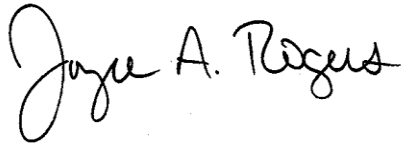
AARP has a long history of fighting for protections against the financial exploitation of older Americans and has been on the forefront of advocacy in support of federal and state laws and regulations that prevent this type of abuse. Elder abuse is an often hidden phenomenon that affects hundreds of thousands of seniors and financial exploitation is the most prevalent form of elder abuse. Every year, abuse and exploitation rob older Americans of \$3 billion¹ — and this is only the amount reported.

Recognizing that financial exploitation is a pervasive and increasing problem that specifically threatens our members' financial security, AARP supports strong legal protections against financial exploitation. AARP hopes this legislation is just the beginning, and we stand ready to work with you to forge solutions and bring safeguards to our members and the public.

Additional steps can be taken to include directly addressing protections on the consumer end, planning for incapacity, training for caregivers, and guidance on the common scenarios of financial exploitation. In addition, the bill can be further strengthened by including continuing education requirements and refresher training every 5 years for consumer facing individuals at financial institutions.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on a bipartisan basis to combat the financial exploitation of older Americans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Jasmine Vasquez on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-3711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs

ⁱ "The Metlife Study on Elder Financial Abuse: Crimes of Occasion, Desperation, and Predation Against America's Elders" (June 2011)