

United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We write to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) to express our concern about the Social Security scam, which has become the top scam reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and to the Senate Special Committee on Aging. The criminals perpetrating this scam pose as Social Security staff and call victims in an attempt to rob them of their hard-earned savings or steal their personally identifiable information. The Senate Special Committee on Aging is committed to preventing more Americans, particularly seniors, from being targeted by this ruthless scam. We urge the EJCC to take a leading role in this effort.

The Committee has a long history of fighting financial fraud targeting seniors and their families. We expect the relevant federal agencies to share this commitment and take actions to protect older adults from this scam. Recent letters to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the SSA Office of the Inspector General, and the FTC from some members of this Committee requested information about the steps these agencies are taking to address the Social Security scam and urged agency leaders to take action to protect seniors from this pernicious scam.

Effectively combatting the Social Security scam will take a government-wide response, and it is imperative that the EJCC take a leading role in coordinating this response. With that in mind, we request answers to the following questions no later than February 12.

1. What actions has the EJCC taken, and what additional actions does the EJCC plan to take, to coordinate efforts to raise public awareness of the Social Security scam?
2. How can the EJCC's work enhance services to senior victims of this scam?
3. What capabilities does the EJCC have to promote cross-disciplinary training among stakeholders on how to prevent, detect, and respond to the Social Security scam? What actions has the EJCC taken or does the EJCC plan to take to exercise those capabilities?
4. Has the EJCC encountered any barriers in its efforts to develop and implement a coordinated strategy for addressing this scam or previous scams seeking to financially exploit older Americans? If so, what, if any, additional legislative authority is needed to address these barriers?

If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to put an end to this ruthless scam.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Chairman



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Ranking Member



Martha McSally
United States Senator



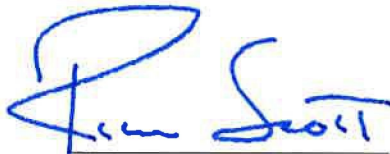
Doug Jones
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Jacky Rosen
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