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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

January 18, 2006

Dear Colleague,

It is estimated that the nation annually loses \$40 billion per year to telemarketing fraud and over \$50 billion to identity theft. Older Americans can be particularly vulnerable to these crimes, and the Administration on Aging indicates that nearly 40 percent of America's seniors rank fear of fraud ahead of their concern for health crises and terrorism. These crimes rob America's seniors of their dignity and, potentially, their retirement security.

The eighth annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) will occur February 5-11, 2006. We would like to invite you to join the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other NCPW participants at two upcoming events that may aid you in developing fraud prevention outreach projects in your home state.

On January 27th, a panel of experts from government agencies and national consumer advocacy groups will address consumer fraud trends based on the FTC's annual report, "National and State Trends in Fraud and Identity Theft". On February 10th, the NCPW Resources Fair will provide congressional staff a firsthand look at DVDs, publications and other items that can be used in outreach programs. At these two events, organizations participating in NCPW will make resources available to congressional offices for use in constituent services and assistance programs. Recently, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the FTC sent a package of sample consumer education materials to each of your offices. Many of the resources, including an outreach toolkit, are available online at <http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw>.

****CONSTITUENT SERVICES WORKSHOP****

Friday, January 27th
9:30 a.m. to Noon
U.S. Capitol, HC-6

****NCPW RESOURCES FAIR****

Friday, February 10th
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
385 Russell SOB

We hope you will recognize these events as a valuable opportunity to launch or improve consumer education campaigns for your constituents.

Sincerely,



Gordon H. Smith
Chairman



Herb Kohl
Ranking Member