



U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AGING ACTION REPORT

FROM RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

DEAR FRIEND,

As Ranking Member of the Senate Aging Committee, putting a stop to scams that prey on our nation's seniors remains one of my top priorities. There's no doubt that during a pandemic, the last thing you want to hear about are frauds and scams, especially fraudsters and scammers who target our senior population in their golden years.

The Senate Aging Committee recently released the annual Fraud Book to help older Americans avoid being scammed. This year, the Fraud Book includes information on the top five scams targeting seniors since 2015 and recommendations seniors can use to protect themselves against fraud, scams, and financial exploitation. For a copy of the Fraud Book, please call (202) 224-0185.

RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT



RANKING MEMBER SCOTT HOLDS FIELD HEARING IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA ON HOW SENIORS CAN "LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES NOW."

On Wednesday September 8, Ranking Member (RM) Tim Scott chaired a field hearing at the Waring Senior Center in Charleston, SC. RM Scott and six distinguished witnesses examined how older Americans can live life to the fullest with sustained physical and mental vitality. During the hearing, RM Scott highlighted his Senate resolution designating September as National Healthy Aging Month, which recognizes senior centers for their central services and activities that forge relationships, purpose, and wellbeing.

Witnesses came from all over the Palmetto State: the SC Department on Aging, Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Senior America Pageant, ministry, fitness fields, and nonprofits. They provided valuable insight into how South Carolinians are weathering the pandemic and working together to support seniors across the state.

2021 FRAUD BOOK

To raise awareness of fraud and scams and increase reporting, the Senate Aging Committee compiles data from reports in an annual fraud book. This year's Fraud Book, released September 23, includes the top five most reported scams since 2015. These include:

- Government impersonation scams
- Sweepstakes scams
- Illegal robocalls/unsolicited phone calls
- Computer scams
- Grandparent scams

The Fraud Book also highlights the significant rise of romance scams during the COVID-19 pandemic, along with tips on how to spot a romance scammer. **If you receive a suspicious call, please hang up and call the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging's Fraud Hotline at 1-855-303-9470.**



AGING HEARING DEBRIEF: FRAUDS AND SCAMS TARGETING OLDER AMERICANS DURING THE PANDEMIC

On Thursday, September 23, RM Tim Scott and the Senate Aging Committee held a hearing discussing the rise of scams targeted at aging Americans in the midst of the pandemic. Committee witnesses explained that forced isolation as a result of COVID-19 makes our seniors more vulnerable. During the hearing, RM Scott announced his support for the Stop Senior Scams Act and advocated for educating seniors through resources like the newly released 2021 Fraud Book and programs like Project HOPE based in Richland, SC.

The committee heard from Vee Daniels of the Better Business Bureau of the Upstate of South Carolina. Mrs. Daniels emphasized that education and awareness play key roles in preventing senior scams, something the BBB is doing through their Savvy Senior Program.

STOP SENIORS SCAMS ACT

On September 23, RM Scott cosponsored Chairman Casey's bipartisan Stop Senior Scams Act to ensure businesses have the information and tools needed to spot and speak up about potential senior scams.

This bill would establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Group, which would create model educational materials to train employees of retailers, financial service companies, and wire-transfer companies about how to identify and prevent scams that target seniors.



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THE SWEET TEA

To convince you to give them money and personal information, con artists will often:

- Force you to make decisions fast or threaten you.
- Use fake caller IDs to disguise their real numbers.
- Pretend to be a government employee (e.g. IRS or Social Security).
- Pressure you not to consult with a lawyer, or even friends and family.
- Urge you to hand over personal information like your Social Security Number or account information.
- Always remember: **if an offer sounds too good to be true, it most likely is!**



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TO REPORT FRAUD TO THE COMMITTEE CALL 1-855-303-9470