

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings**

**H.R. 624, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2017**

**February 14, 2016**

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 624, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act.

This bill is a common-sense step to help prevent identity theft and related crimes that affect millions of Americans every year. H.R. 624 would prevent the printing of full social security numbers on documents issued by federal agencies and sent by mail, except in circumstances in which an agency head determines it is necessary.

The bill would also require agencies to develop regulations governing what constitutes necessary circumstances, providing instructions for the partial redaction of social security numbers when possible, and prohibiting numbers from being visible on the outside of any mailed packages.

A bill identical to H.R. 624 garnered bipartisan support in the last Congress and passed both this Committee and the House without opposition.

It has also received support from the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retiree Legislative Network.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that we work to prevent identity theft, and so I thank you for including this bill on the markup.

I urge Members to support H.R. 624 and I yield back the balance of my time.

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