



H.R. 5345, the *Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act* **Rep. Kustoff (R-TN)**

Background:

- In 2024, there were more than 3,158 reported data breaches resulting in the issuance of **roughly 1.3 billion mandatory data breach notices to victims**.
 - Of the 3,158 breaches, **more than 1,800 included Social Security Numbers (SSN)**.¹
- The SSN continues to be an attractive target for identity thieves due to its widespread use throughout the public and private sectors as an identifier and authenticator.
- Resolving an issue related to a lost or stolen SSN can be a **long and complex ordeal, placing additional burdens on victims**, and extending the time fraudsters have to misuse the SSN.
 - To resolve an issue with the Social Security Administration (SSA) related to SSN misuse or a lost Social Security card, an individual may be faced with multiple, different processes requiring them to speak to multiple, different SSA employees before the issue is resolved.
 - Victims report they are often provided conflicting information and advice.
- The SSA has a **responsibility to help, rather than hinder, individuals trying to protect themselves from the harm of identity theft**.

The Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act:

- Requires the SSA to provide victims of identity theft with a **single point of contact at the agency** when the misuse of their SSN results in the need to resolve an issue with the SSA or when their Social Security card is lost in the mail.

¹ https://www.idtheftcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ITRC_2024DataBreachReport.pdf