

## **H.R. 5345, *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)**.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.idtheftcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ITRC\\_2024DataBreachReport.pdf](https://www.idtheftcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ITRC_2024DataBreachReport.pdf)