

30 minutes. The individuals who practice at these facilities, including doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, and nurse practitioners, have a very strong understanding of what care can be safely provided in their critical access setting and which cases should be transferred to a larger facility.

However, CMS' efforts to accommodate the concerns of rural providers hasn't been to empower these professionals, but to create a limited list of procedures which can be done without a physician on-site. For this reason, I appreciate the chairman and the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for working with me to incorporate language into this bill, which requires MedPAC to report on the economic and staffing impacts of these regulations on rural hospitals.

Based on discussions I have had with hospitals across Nebraska's Third District, I expect MedPAC's findings will make a strong case for repealing this regulation outright.

I urge passage of this bill, which is vital to communities across rural America.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH). We came into Congress at the same time, and it is great we can work on this bill together. It is a commonsense bill.

Again, in Iowa, we have over 80 critical access hospitals. The gentleman pointed out the importance that these are small hospitals, 25 or fewer beds. Their resources are limited. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for supporting this bill. I really appreciate it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Congressman LOEBSACK and I worked together to introduce this measure, once again, in a bipartisan fashion. I, too, want to thank him for understanding the problem rural doctors face with this supervision mandate and for his willingness to work with me to introduce this bill.

I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this measure, once again, unanimously, so that we can provide the rural doctors of this country with a little more certainty and take away the threat of an unnecessary burden.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5613, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

### SOCIAL SECURITY MUST AVERT IDENTITY LOSS (MAIL) ACT OF 2016

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5320) to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5320

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss (MAIL) Act of 2016".*

#### SEC. 2. RESTRICTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS IN DOCUMENTS SENT BY MAIL.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"(xiv)(I) The Commissioner of Social Security shall ensure that no document sent by mail by the Social Security Administration includes a complete social security account number unless the Commissioner determines that inclusion of such complete number is necessary.*

*"(II) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this clause and not later than each of March 31 and September 30 of each of the first 6 years following the year in which such date of enactment occurs, the Commissioner of Social Security shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the implementation of subclause (I). Such report shall include—*

*"(aa) the title and identification number of each document used by the Social Security Administration during the previous year on which is printed an individual's complete social security account number;*

*"(bb) the most recent date on which each such document was updated; and*

*"(cc) the projected date on which complete social security account numbers will be removed from each such document, or if the Commissioner determines that inclusion of such complete number is necessary, the rationale for such determination."*

*(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall implement the amendments made under subsection (a) as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS of Alabama). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to review and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5320, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security in support of the Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss Act of 2016, also known as the Social Security MAIL Act legislation. It is legislation that I introduced along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI).

Mr. Speaker, Social Security makes a point of telling Americans how important it is to protect their Social Security numbers. Time and time again, Americans are warned to protect their Social Security cards in order to avoid identity theft.

For years I have been calling for ending the use of Social Security numbers unless it is absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, while some progress has been made, the Social Security Administration still includes Social Security numbers on some documents it mails. Just last year, Social Security sent out more than 233 million letters that included full Social Security numbers. This needs to stop and now.

The bill requires Social Security to either remove Social Security numbers from mailings or explain why including a Social Security number is necessary. This commonsense legislation is supported by AARP and the Association of Mature American Citizens. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD their letters of support.

AARP,  
July 13, 2016.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,  
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Social Security.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: AARP supports H.R. 5320, the Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss (MAIL) Act of 2016, which would protect Social Security numbers (SSNs) from inappropriate public disclosure. AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

Social Security is the primary source of retirement and disability income for 60 million Americans. Personal information about Social Security benefits, such as Social Security numbers (SSNs), is critical financial information and must be afforded the highest level of privacy protection. H.R. 5320 would ensure that Social Security numbers (SSNs) are protected by making clear the Social Security Administration may not include a full Social Security account number on any document sent by mail unless the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration determines that such inclusion is necessary.

AARP has a longstanding public policy position on Social Security privacy that companies, government agencies, and individuals should not be allowed to post or publicly display SSNs, print them on cards, transmit them over the internet, or send them by mail without safety measures. We appreciate your recognition of the important need to protect personal Social Security information and efforts to urge Congress to make this needed change in the law.

Because of Social Security, millions of Americans and their families are able to live

their lives with dignity and independence. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all aspects of the Social Security program remain strong for future generations of American workers and their families. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

JOYCE A. ROGERS,  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

AMAC,  
June 30, 2016.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Social Security Subcommittee, House  
Committee on Ways and Means, Wash-  
ington, DC.

Hon. JIM RENACCI,  
16th District, Ohio,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON AND CONGRESS-  
MAN RENACCI: On behalf of the 1.3 million  
members of AMAC, the Association of Ma-  
ture American Citizens, I am writing in  
strong support of the H.R. 5320, the Social  
Security Must Avert Identity Loss Act of  
2016, or the Social Security MAIL Act of 2016.  
This important piece of legislation seeks to  
protect Social Security beneficiaries from  
runaway identity theft that has become all  
too common for senior citizens. As identity  
theft becomes more and more rampant  
across the country, this timely bill offers a  
smart, sensible solution to a problem mil-  
lions of seniors face annually.

Last year, the Social Security Administra-  
tion (SSA) sent 352 million notices by mail—  
including 233 million notices containing an  
individual's full Social Security number.  
With such massive amounts of mail being de-  
livered with unnecessary and identity-com-  
promising information, there are several op-  
portunities for criminals to steal an individ-  
ual's identity. In fact, in 2014, it is estimated  
that roughly 7% of the population over the  
age of 16 were victims of identity theft. As  
the world gets smaller, and as more crimi-  
nals see opportunities to steal identities in  
any way they can, H.R. 5320 offers a com-  
monsense solution to Social Security bene-  
ficiaries who are unknowingly being put at  
risk by the unnecessary use of their Social  
Security number.

The Social Security MAIL Act of 2016 is as  
simple as it is smart. The bill mandates that  
the SSA ensure no piece of mail being sent  
to an individual includes that individual's  
complete Social Security account number—  
unless it is absolutely necessary. As rates of  
identity theft continue to go up, Congress  
must take action to prevent making identity  
theft easier for opportunistic criminals. A  
bill like H.R. 5320 is long overdue, and we  
encourage House leadership to act on behalf of  
Social Security beneficiaries and take swift  
action to enact this bill.

As an organization committed to rep-  
resenting the interests of mature Americans  
and seniors, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring  
senior citizens' interests are protected. We  
applaud Chairman Johnson, Congressman  
Renacci, and your attentive staffs for your  
thoughtful and practical solution to protect  
seniors from identity theft. AMAC is pleased  
to offer our organization's full support to the  
Social Security MAIL Act of 2016.

Sincerely,

DAN WEBER,  
President and Founder of AMAC.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr.  
Speaker, Americans rightly expect  
that the Social Security Administra-  
tion keeps their personal information  
safe. This bill makes sure Social Secu-  
rity doesn't include a Social Security  
number in documents it mails unless it  
is absolutely necessary. It is a com-

monsense solution to a problem that  
shouldn't exist in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members in  
the House to vote "yes" and pass the  
Social Security MAIL Act today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield my-  
self such time as I may consume.

This bill codifies current practice at  
the Social Security Administration,  
which is to remove Social Security  
numbers from its letters and notices in  
order to reduce the risk of identity  
theft.

It is important to note that SSA is  
ahead of the game on these efforts. It  
has not included Social Security num-  
bers on statements since 2001. Checks  
have not contained Social Security  
numbers since 2004, and the annual  
COLA notice no longer contains full  
Social Security numbers.

This bill before us also requires SSA  
to report to Congress twice each year  
for the next 6 years on its progress to-  
ward removing Social Security num-  
bers from all mail documents.

I am glad that SSA has already  
taken important steps to protect  
Americans' identities, and I commend  
SSA for the high value it places on pro-  
tecting Americans' private informa-  
tion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of  
my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr.  
Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gen-  
tleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI).

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I thank  
Chairman JOHNSON for his leadership  
on the Subcommittee on Social Secu-  
rity and for his leadership on this legis-  
lation.

Identity theft is an issue that has be-  
come all too prevalent in recent years.  
In fact, the Federal Trade Commission  
received over 490,000 identity theft  
complaints in 2015. This represents a 47  
percent increase compared to 2014.

As a personal victim of identity  
theft, I understand the frustration,  
fear, and sense of helplessness of hav-  
ing your identity stolen. I also under-  
stand the worry that victims have that  
someone will use their identity to file  
other fraudulent claims. The Federal  
Government and Federal agencies have  
a responsibility to carefully protect  
every American's identifying informa-  
tion. That is why I was stunned to  
learn that the Social Security Admin-  
istration provided a full Social Secu-  
rity number on over 230 million docu-  
ments that it sent out in 2015. This re-  
presents 66 percent of all mailings.

The volume of documents that con-  
tain Americans' full Social Security  
number puts Americans unnecessarily  
at risk of having their identity stolen.  
In fact, in a recent report, the inspec-  
tor general of the Social Security Ad-  
ministration stated that the "more  
SSNs are unnecessarily used, the high-  
er the probability they may be used in-  
appropriately." This led the inspector  
general to recommend that the SSA  
should take steps to remove Social Se-  
curity numbers from documents and

that the Social Security Administra-  
tion should be at the forefront of lim-  
iting the use of full Social Security  
numbers.

Our legislation helps address this  
problem. H.R. 5320 simply directs the  
Social Security Administration to re-  
move full Social Security numbers  
from mailings when they simply are  
not needed. To northeast Ohioans, this  
is just common sense.

Also, this bill will ensure Congress  
provides the proper amount of over-  
sight over the Social Security Admin-  
istration, requiring the administration  
to justify the continued use of full So-  
cial Security numbers on mailed docu-  
ments.

All Americans should have the con-  
fidence in knowing that the Social Se-  
curity Administration is doing every-  
thing within its power to protect So-  
cial Security numbers. I urge all Mem-  
bers to support this commonsense, bi-  
partisan legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back  
the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr.  
Speaker, having no other speakers, I  
am prepared to close my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all Mem-  
bers of the House to vote "yes" and  
pass the Social Security MAIL Act  
today so the Senate can take action  
soon and the President can sign it into  
law without delay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The  
question is on the motion offered by  
the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM  
JOHNSON) that the House suspend the  
rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5320, as  
amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the  
opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being  
in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on  
that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-  
ant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-  
ceedings on this motion will be post-  
poned.

#### UNITED STATES APPRECIATION FOR OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to  
suspend the rules and pass the bill  
(H.R. 5946) to amend the Internal Rev-  
enue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross  
income any prizes or awards won in  
competition in the Olympic Games or  
the Paralympic Games, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5946

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-  
resentatives of the United States of America in  
Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "United States  
Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians  
Act of 2016".*