

Representatives KELLY and BALDERSON's bill will help address these scams. It directs the FTC to issue a report on fraud targeting seniors during the pandemic and how to improve efforts against senior scams during future emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 446, the Protecting Seniors from Emergency Scams Act. I would like to thank Representative ROBIN KELLY of the Energy and Commerce Committee for her bipartisan work with Representative TROY BALDERSON to protect our constituents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the lives of millions of Americans upside down, unfortunately. We were all forced to isolate, sometimes even away from our families and friends, to stay safe. Unfortunately, it is during these times when bad actors aim to exploit the most vulnerable. Promising fake lifesaving medication and stimulus checks, scammers will stop at nothing to take advantage of others.

H.R. 446 would protect Americans, especially seniors, from malicious and deceptive scams by augmenting the tools included in other recently enacted legislation. As they have worked on legislation to fight scammers, I have supported my colleagues' efforts to incorporate provisions that encourage cooperation with law enforcement. I am pleased to see such efforts continue in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, of course, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), the lead sponsor of the bill who has worked so hard, particularly during the pandemic, to address disparities in healthcare.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the past year has been tough for many of us but especially difficult for seniors. Many have lost friends and loved ones from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Increased isolation and dependence on digital resources have put extra burdens on millions of Americans.

From frantic calls of, "Grandma, I am in the hospital sick with COVID. Please wire money right away," to calls from supposed Good Samaritans offering to run errands and then pocketing the money, scammers are using the pandemic to take advantage of vulnerable populations. They are preying on fear and uncertainty to steal money and personal information or sell fraudulent services or products.

One of the best ways to protect seniors from falling victim to scams is to supply them with the information they need. That is why H.R. 446 requires the

FTC to report on the number and type of scams that target older adults. It also will have the Commission's web portal updated with current information about such scams and coordination with media outlets and law enforcement to disseminate scam information. Seniors need to know what scams are happening in their areas so they can protect themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BALDERSON for joining me in leading this legislation and Chairman PALLONE for his support in advancing legislation to protect our seniors.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), the cosponsor of the legislation.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 446, legislation aimed that at protecting older Americans from falling victim to scammers.

Throughout the pandemic, uncertainty has led to many Americans falling victim to scam callers, especially vulnerable populations like seniors. We have a responsibility to stop bad actors like these scam artists in their tracks. That starts with empowering the American people with information to better protect themselves and their loved ones from falling victim.

H.R. 446 would direct the Federal Trade Commission to identify scammers and make such information publicly available. This legislation also equips the FTC to more proactively alert the public about known scams, specifically in their region.

Mr. Speaker, our seniors have suffered enough. It is time to better supply them and their loved ones with the information needed to protect themselves against scammers who shamelessly prey on the most vulnerable. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 446, the Protecting Seniors from Emergency Scams Act.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 446.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROTECTING INDIAN TRIBES FROM SCAMS ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1762) to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1762

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 "Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act".

SEC. 2. PROTECTING INDIAN TRIBES FROM UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.

(a) FTC REPORT ON UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES TARGETING INDIAN TRIBES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and after consultation with Indian Tribes, the Commission shall make publicly available on the website of the Commission and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes, including—

(1) a description of the types of unfair or deceptive acts or practices identified by the Commission as being targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes;

(2) a description of the consumer education activities of the Commission with respect to such acts or practices;

(3) a description of the efforts of the Commission to collaborate with Indian Tribes to prevent such acts or practices or to pursue persons using such acts or practices;

(4) a summary of the enforcement actions taken by the Commission related to such acts or practices; and

(5) any recommendations for legislation to prevent such acts or practices.

(b) INCREASING AWARENESS OF UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES TARGETING INDIAN TRIBES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the submission of the report required by subsection (a), the Commission shall update the website of the Commission to include information for consumers and businesses on identifying and avoiding unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1762.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. The often-overlooked area in Federal fraud prevention efforts is scams targeting Indian Tribes and Tribal members. The scope and scale of scams affecting Indian Tribes have not been well documented, hindering efforts to prevent them.

This bipartisan bill, reintroduced this Congress by Representatives MULLIN and O'HALLERAN, will help get the needed information about fraud and scams targeting Tribes and members of Tribes. This bill directs the FTC to consult with Indian Tribes about these scams and then issue a report to Congress that will be made public. It also requires the FTC to update its website to include information on these scams.

Mr. Speaker, as this pandemic continues, scammers are taking advantage of people's fear and uncertainty to steal people's money and commit fraud. American Indians are not exempt from these unfair and deceptive practices and may even be specifically targeted with certain kinds of scams. But there is not much information about it.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives MULLIN and O'HALLERAN for introducing this bill, an important step in helping prevent fraud and scams targeting Tribes and members of Tribes. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. I want to thank Representative MULLIN and Representative O'HALLERAN for their work on this particular issue. This bipartisan piece of legislation will help our Native nations.

One area that can be overlooked in Federal fraud prevention efforts, Mr. Speaker, is scams targeting Indian Tribal members. The scope and scale of scams that target Indian Tribes have not been well documented, hindering efforts to prevent them.

This legislation would direct the FTC, the Federal Trade Commission, to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeting Indian Tribes.

Simply put, these scammers ruin lives, unfortunately. To address these scams properly, we must educate all Americans on how to avoid malicious scammers.

This legislation passed the House last Congress, and I am hopeful we can again pass it today and get this legislation to become law as soon as possible. I can't think of a better person to sponsor this than my good friend, Mr. MULLIN.

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

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of my bill, H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. The bill will help protect our Tribes and Tribal members from predatory scams.

Tribal communities have long been targets of fraud. Scammers often target vulnerable communities who receive trust or settlement payments, like many Tribes do. FTC data says that Tribe members are more likely to be the victims of scams and are less likely to report scams than any other group.

H.R. 1762 will direct the FTC to study the types of scams that target Tribes and find the best ways to combat them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arizona for working with me on these issues, as well as many other issues important to Indian Country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1762.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FTC COLLABORATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1766) to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1766

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 "FTC Collaboration Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES CO-OPERATION STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall conduct a study on facilitating and refining existing efforts with State Attorneys General to prevent, publicize, and penalize frauds and

scams being perpetrated on individuals in the United States.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study, the Commission shall examine the following:

(A) The roles and responsibilities of the Commission and State Attorneys General that best advance collaboration and consumer protection.

(B) The policies, procedures, and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation and communications across the Commission.

(C) How resources should be dedicated to best advance such collaboration and consumer protection.

(D) The accountability mechanisms that should be implemented to promote collaboration and consumer protection.

(3) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In producing the study required in paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) consult with—

(i) the National Association of State Attorneys General;

(ii) public interest organizations dedicated to consumer protection;

(iii) relevant private sector entities; and

(iv) any other Federal or State agency that the Federal Trade Commission considers necessary; and

(B) provide opportunity for public comment and advice relevant to the production of the study.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the completion of the study required pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Commission, a report that contains the following:

(1) The results of the study.

(2) Recommended best practices to enhance collaboration efforts between the Commission and State Attorneys General with respect to preventing, publicizing, and penalizing fraud and scams.

(3) Quantifiable metrics by which enhanced collaboration can be measured.

(4) Legislative recommendations, if any, to enhance collaboration efforts between the Commission and State Attorneys General to prevent, publicize, and penalize fraud and scams.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1766.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1766, the FTC Collaboration Act of 2021. This bipartisan bill was introduced again this year by Representatives O'HALLERAN and HUDSON.