

Finally, the gentleman from Michigan puts forward a very inaccurate view of our current law. It is not true that you can't invest in your brother-in-law's pizzeria unless you have a million dollars in net worth. If that were true, I couldn't get a pizza on Ventura Boulevard.

The fact is that we do allow up to 35 unaccredited investors in private offerings, and the vast majority of what we think of as the really small businesses, the ones up and down Ventura Boulevard—the pizzeria, the restaurant, whatever—fit into that category.

We do have a securities law system that works pretty well. We can improve it. This bill does that. The SEC should amend its accredited investor definition to better protect investors and retirees from being solicited for high-risk, unsustainable products just because they meet an asset threshold that hasn't been revised in 40 years.

I urge the SEC to review that asset threshold as part of the periodic review required by this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support a balanced investor protection regime, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1579, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1579, the Accredited Investor Definition Review Act of 2023.

This bill revises who may be considered an accredited investor for purposes of participating in private offerings of securities.

Certain unregistered securities may only be offered to accredited investors.

Specifically, the bill allows the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) discretion in determining what certifications, designations, or credentials investors must possess for purposes of investor protection, provided that the credentials are at least as broad as the existing regulations.

Additionally, the SEC must review these credentials every five years.

This bill amends the definition of investor in the Securities Act of 1933 by adding the following language:

“(C) an individual holding such certifications, designations, or credentials as the Commission determines necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors, where such list of certifications, designations, or credentials shall be no less broad than those certifications, designations, or credentials described in the amendments made to section 230.501 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, by the final rule of the Commission titled ‘Accredited Investor Definition’ (85 Fed. Reg. 64234; published October 9, 2020).”

This amendment will give small business startups and everyday citizens in Houston and around the U.S. the opportunity to participate in the growth and success of our economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1579, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL SENIOR INVESTOR INITIATIVE ACT OF 2023

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2593) to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2593

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 “National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2023” or the “Senior Security Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.

Section 4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Senior Investor Taskforce (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Taskforce’).

“(2) DIRECTOR OF THE TASKFORCE.—The head of the Taskforce shall be the Director, who shall—

“(A) report directly to the Chairman; and

“(B) be appointed by the Chairman, in consultation with the Commission, from among individuals—

“(i) currently employed by the Commission or from outside of the Commission; and

“(ii) having experience in advocating for the interests of senior investors.

“(3) STAFFING.—The Chairman shall ensure that—

“(A) the Taskforce is staffed sufficiently to carry out fully the requirements of this subsection; and

“(B) such staff shall include individuals from the Division of Enforcement, Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, and Office of Investor Education and Advocacy.

“(4) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF TASKFORCE.—All members of the Taskforce appointed under paragraph (2) or (3) shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

“(5) MINIMIZING DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.—In organizing and staffing the Taskforce, the Chairman shall take such actions as may be necessary to minimize the duplication of efforts within the divisions and offices described under paragraph (3)(B) and any other divisions, offices, or taskforces of the Commission.

“(6) FUNCTIONS OF THE TASKFORCE.—The Taskforce shall—

“(A) identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

“(B) identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

“(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission, other taskforces that may be established within the Commission, self-regulatory organiza-

tions, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council; and

“(D) consult, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and other Federal agencies.

“(7) REPORT.—The Taskforce, in coordination, as appropriate, with the Office of the Investor Advocate and self-regulatory organizations, and in consultation, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and Federal agencies, shall issue a report every 2 years to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the first of which shall not be issued until after the report described in section 3 of the National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2023 has been issued and considered by the Taskforce, containing—

“(A) appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

“(B) a summary of recent trends and innovations that have impacted the investment landscape for senior investors;

“(C) a summary of regulatory initiatives that have concentrated on senior investors and industry practices related to senior investors;

“(D) key observations, best practices, and areas needing improvement, involving senior investors identified during examinations, enforcement actions, and investor education outreach;

“(E) a summary of the most serious issues encountered by senior investors, including issues involving financial products and services;

“(F) an analysis with regard to existing policies and procedures of brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and other market participants related to senior investors and senior investor-related topics and whether these policies and procedures need to be further developed or refined;

“(G) recommendations for such changes to the regulations, guidance, and orders of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations and such legislative actions as may be appropriate to resolve problems encountered by senior investors; and

“(H) any other information, as determined appropriate by the Director of the Taskforce.

“(8) REQUEST FOR REPORTS.—The Taskforce shall make any report issued under paragraph (7) available to a Member of Congress who requests such a report.

“(9) SUNSET.—The Taskforce shall terminate after the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

“(10) SENIOR INVESTOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘senior investor’ means an investor over the age of 65.

“(11) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The Commission shall use existing funds to carry out this subsection.”.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and the Senior Investor Taskforce the results of a study of financial exploitation of senior citizens.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include information with respect to—

(1) economic costs of the financial exploitation of senior citizens—

(A) associated with losses by victims that were incurred as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(B) incurred by State and Federal agencies, law enforcement and investigatory agencies,

public benefit programs, public health programs, and other public programs as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(C) incurred by the private sector as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(D) any other relevant costs that—

(i) result from the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(ii) the Comptroller General determines are necessary and appropriate to include in order to provide Congress and the public with a full and accurate understanding of the economic costs resulting from the financial exploitation of senior citizens in the United States;

(2) frequency of senior financial exploitation and correlated or contributing factors—

(A) information about percentage of senior citizens financially exploited each year; and

(B) information about factors contributing to increased risk of exploitation, including such factors as race, social isolation, income, net worth, religion, region, occupation, education, home-ownership, illness, and loss of spouse; and

(3) policy responses and reporting of senior financial exploitation—

(A) the degree to which financial exploitation of senior citizens unreported to authorities;

(B) the reasons that financial exploitation may be unreported to authorities;

(C) to the extent that suspected elder financial exploitation is currently being reported—

(i) information regarding which Federal, State, and local agencies are receiving reports, including adult protective services, law enforcement, industry, regulators, and professional licensing boards;

(ii) information regarding what information is being collected by such agencies; and

(iii) information regarding the actions that are taken by such agencies upon receipt of the report and any limits on the agencies' ability to prevent exploitation, such as jurisdictional limits, a lack of expertise, resource challenges, or limiting criteria with regard to the types of victims they are permitted to serve;

(D) an analysis of gaps that may exist in empowering Federal, State, and local agencies to prevent senior exploitation or respond effectively to suspected senior financial exploitation; and

(E) an analysis of the legal hurdles that prevent Federal, State, and local agencies from effectively partnering with each other and private professionals to effectively respond to senior financial exploitation.

(c) SENIOR CITIZEN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term "senior citizen" means an individual over the age of 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. 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 the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2593, the Senior Security Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, Representatives Gottheimer and Lawler, for working on this important piece of bipartisan legislation that will assist in the protection of our senior investors.

Fraud and exploitation of any kind in our capital markets threaten the integrity of our markets. It is especially problematic when such fraudulent activity targets senior investors.

According to some reports, around 20 percent of senior investors fall prey to fraudulent investment schemes. Similar reports show that seniors lose nearly \$3 billion annually from financial fraud and exploitation.

The Senior Security Act is designed to support and enhance efforts to protect against and prevent the financial exploitation of senior investors.

This bill establishes the senior investors task force within the Securities and Exchange Commission, which must report on industry trends and serious issues impacting investors over the age of 65. The task force will also help inform policymaking in Washington by making recommendations for legislative or regulatory actions to address problems encountered by our senior investors.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2593 has received very strong bipartisan support in the past, passing by suspension in both the 116th and 117th Congresses. It remains a sensible solution to ensure that senior investors receive adequate protection against fraud and exploitation.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2593, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do have a question for the chairwoman of our subcommittee. We are taking these bills in a different order than I was told. We are now dealing with H.R. 2593. Will we then return to H.R. 2608 and H.R. 2610?

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for the purpose of a colloquy?

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the ranking member that we may be a bit out of order here. My deepest apologies, and we will be returning to that order right after this bill is finished.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the one person that may be most surprised by us going out of order is the author of this bill, Mr. GOTTHEIMER. I know he is on his way now to this floor, so in order for him to get here before he would have expected to be needed, I will speak very slowly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise slowly in support of H.R. 2593, the Senior Security Act sponsored by the gentleman from New Jersey, who is on his way to this floor right now.

Scams targeting seniors, which can include harassing robocalls and phone

calls impersonating the government, cost older Americans more than \$36 billion a year, according to the National Council on Aging. According to AARP, these kinds of senior scams have more than doubled just since 2020.

Financial scams can leave a devastating and lasting impact on our seniors, causing significant financial loss. Recovering lost funds is a very challenging process, and in many cases, the money is simply not retrieved.

Scams also lead to significant emotional distress, resulting in feelings of embarrassment, guilt, shame, and a diminished sense of self-worth. The emotional impact can exacerbate health conditions or lead to depression and anxiety. Once scammed, seniors might lose trust in people, which can lead to further isolation and reluctance to seek help.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER's bill takes key steps to help protect older Americans nationwide from getting scammed out of their hard-earned money by establishing a senior investor task force within the SEC. This task force must report on topics relating to investors over the age of 65 and make recommendations for actions to address problems encountered by senior investors.

I will also point out that this is important for our capital markets and for companies trying to raise money because every time a senior is subject to one of these scams, others become less interested in investing, and we need Americans to feel that they are protected and not cheated when they invest in stocks, bonds, and our capital markets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I am pleased that the gentleman from New Jersey has arrived, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am pleased to see that the author of the bill, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), is here to speak on his very fine piece of legislation that we are all supportive of, in a bipartisan manner, H.R. 2593, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), the author of this bill.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan bill, the Senior Security Act, to help protect vulnerable seniors who are being targeted by fraudsters who seek to take financial advantage of them.

I first thank my colleague, Republican Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, for her friendship and her leadership. I am very grateful for her continued fight to have the backs of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Senators SINEMA and COLLINS, who have introduced the companion legislation to the Senior Security Act in the United States Senate.

This legislation builds on Congresswoman WAGNER's and my previous

work this Congress when we advanced the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act that would give asset managers more tools to prevent suspected financial exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults.

Since I took office, I have been committed to helping seniors save their hard-earned money for retirement, help cut their taxes, afford prescription drugs, and protect Social Security and Medicare so that, at the end of the day, they can afford to stay where I live in northern New Jersey and enjoy their lives with their friends, children, and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, far too many of our seniors have had their hard-earned retirement savings stolen right out from under them when a scammer calls or shows up at their door. Millions of seniors across the country, including my own late mother, have been the victims of financial scams, and far too many have been cheated out of their retirement savings.

It is appalling. It is offensive. It is simply unacceptable. These senior scams cost older Americans more than \$36 billion a year, often hitting their retirement nest eggs, not to mention the pain and anxiety you can't put a dollar figure on. Plus, senior scams have more than doubled since 2020.

We are here today to do something about it by advancing the Senior Security Act to help protect American seniors from these shameless criminals.

This bipartisan bill would create a senior investor task force at the Securities and Exchange Commission that will exclusively focus on how seniors are being targeted by fraudsters who seek to take financial advantage of them.

Every 2 years, the task force will be required to submit a report to Congress outlining trends and innovations, like robocalls and voice spoofing, that are impacting senior investors, helping us stay ahead of changes in financial scams as they arise.

Everyone should know they are incredibly sophisticated now. Literally through AI and other spoofing, it sounds like someone's grandchild calling when they scam them.

The task force will give law enforcement stronger tools and information. The task force will coordinate with other Federal regulators, State regulators, and law enforcement to ensure we are doing as much as we can at every level of government to stop hucksters from scamming our seniors. The task force will be a cop on the beat to make sure we keep up with the changes in financial scams and, again, stay ahead of new issues.

Our seniors have given us so much. We should always have their backs, look out for them, and help protect them from predators and innovative scammers who want to take advantage of them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation, the Senior Security Act. I

thank my colleagues and Congresswoman WAGNER, again, for her friendship and her leadership.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2593, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill passed in committee 49-0. Our seniors are particularly vulnerable to financial scams. As Members of Congress, we must work to find effective ways to protect seniors from scamsters and fraudsters.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER's bill, a bill I commend him for drafting and one that, once again, got 49 votes to 0 in our committee—I commend him for crafting this legislation.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2593, a wonderful piece of bipartisan legislation that is going to help our seniors have the kind of financial security that they need going forward.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2593, the Senior Security Act of 2023.

This bill establishes the Senior Investor Taskforce within the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The taskforce must report on topics relating to investors over the age of 65, including industry trends and serious issues impacting such investors, and make recommendations for legislative or regulatory actions to address problems encountered by senior investors.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the financial exploitation of senior citizens.

The proposed taskforce would do the following:

A) identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

B) identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

C) coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission, other taskforces that may be established within the Commission, self-regulatory organizations, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council; and

D) consult, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and other Federal agencies.

The Government Accountability Office Study will observe the economic costs, frequency, and policy responses of the financial exploitation of senior citizens.

The Taskforce and the study that it will conduct is important because it will help prevent the financial exploitation of senior citizens.

The Taskforce and its study could also inspire legislation to prevent the financial exploitation of senior citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs.

WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2593, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2608) to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2608

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

SECTION 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES.

(a) SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 7(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77g(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) need not present acquired company financial statements or information otherwise required under section 210.3-05 or section 210.8-04 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, for any period prior to the earliest audited period of the emerging growth company presented in connection with its initial public offering and, thereafter, in no event shall an issuer that was an emerging growth company but is no longer an emerging growth company be required to present financial statements of the issuer (or acquired company financial statements or information otherwise required under section 210.3-05 or section 210.8-04 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto) for any period prior to the earliest audited period of the emerging growth company presented in connection with its initial public offering; and”.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 12(b)(1)(K) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(b)(1)(K)) is amended by striking “firm;” and inserting “firm, provided that the application of an emerging growth company need not present acquired company financial statements or information otherwise required under section 210.3-05 or section 210.8-04 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, for any period prior to the earliest audited period of the emerging growth company presented in connection with its application and, thereafter, in no event shall an issuer that was an emerging growth company but is no longer an emerging growth company be required to present financial statements of the issuer (or acquired company financial statements or information otherwise required under section 210.3-05 or section 210.8-04 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto) for any period prior to the earliest audited period of the emerging growth company presented in connection with any application under subsection (b) of this section;”.