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December 9, 2015

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

As the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of nearly 38 million Americans age 50 and older, we write in support of your bill, H.R. 3779, which would protect Social Security numbers (SSNs) from inappropriate public disclosure. 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. 3779 would ensure that Social Security numbers (SSNs) are protected by making clear that no federal department or agency may include a Social Security account number on any document sent by mail unless the head of the agency or department determines that such inclusion is necessary. The bill also requires regulations to seek partial redaction of account numbers when feasible and requires that numbers not be visible from the outside of any package sent by mail.

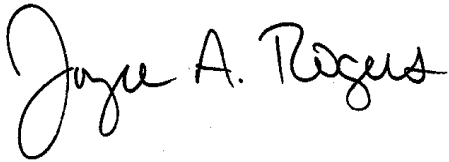
AARP has a longstanding public policy position on privacy that specifically states that “companies, government agencies, and individuals should not be allowed to post or publicly display SSNs, print them on cards, transmit them over the internet or by facsimile, or send them by mail without safety measures.” 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, older and disabled Americans are able to live their lives with dignity and support their families. 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

Real Possibilities

feel free to call me, or have your staff contact Michele Varnhagen on our Government Affairs staff at 202-434-3829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs