

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 57

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REQUIRE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CREDITORS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WRITTEN IDENTITY THEFT PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY, DETECT AND CORRECT THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO VICTIMS OF IDENTITY THEFT AND TO REQUIRE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROMULGATE NEW RULES ALLOWING VICTIMS OF IDENTITY THEFT TO OBTAIN A NEW SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND TRANSFER ALL EXISTING BENEFITS TO THE NEW MEMBER.

WHEREAS, identity theft is on the rise, increasing twenty-two percent from 2007 and affecting almost ten million victims in 2008; and

WHEREAS, one in every ten United States consumers has already been victimized by identity theft; and

WHEREAS, victims of identity theft must usually spend between five hundred dollars (\$500) and one thousand dollars

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1 (\$1,000) out of pocket to correct the damage from identity  
2 theft; and

3 WHEREAS, a victim of identity theft must usually spend  
4 more than six hundred hours of time to correct the damage from  
5 identity theft and can take up to five thousand eight hundred  
6 forty hours to correct the damage from identity theft, which is  
7 the equivalent of working a full-time job for two years; and

8 WHEREAS, stolen wallets and physical documents account for  
9 forty-three percent of all identity theft, while on-line  
10 methods of identity theft account for only eleven percent; and

11 WHEREAS, victims of identity theft must contact multiple  
12 agencies to resolve the fraud, which include financial  
13 institutions, credit bureaus, law enforcement, debt collectors,  
14 identity theft assistant services and the federal trade  
15 commission; and

16 WHEREAS, the social security administration does not, in  
17 most cases, provide assistance to identity theft victims; and

18 WHEREAS, the social security administration only assigns a  
19 new social security number because of significant misuse, and  
20 only then will a special indicator be placed on the social  
21 security number;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be  
24 requested to require financial institutions, creditors and  
25 lenders to develop and implement a written identity theft

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1 program to identify, detect and correct the damage caused to  
2 victims of identity theft and to require the social security  
3 administration to promulgate new rules allowing victims of  
4 identify theft to obtain a new social security number and  
5 transfer all existing benefits to the new number; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the president pro tempore of the United States  
8 senate, the speaker of the United States house of  
9 representatives, the New Mexico congressional delegation and  
10 the commissioner of social security.