



The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2018

Dear Representative Curbelo:

On behalf of the National Association of Professional Background Screeners (NAPBS), I would like to thank you for your leadership in efforts to prevent synthetic identity fraud, namely through the introduction of H.R. 5192, the *Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act*. In March, the Senate acted in a bipartisan manner to support an amendment by Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Gary Peters (D-MI), John Hoeven (R-ND), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Doug Jones (D-AL) to S. 2155 to similarly modernize the Consent Based Social Security Number Verification (CBSV) system by accepting electronic consent. As an association of professionals dedicated to protecting communities and workplaces, NAPBS has long recognized the important role technology can play to promote Americans' safety including protection from identity fraud.

As you know, it is essential that the federal government keep up with the speed of technological advancements to thwart those who would use technology for bad purposes, such as to commit synthetic identity fraud and to leverage the beneficial aspects of technologies such as electronic signatures. We applaud efforts to call upon the Social Security Administration to modernize its information technology infrastructure and processes to accept electronic signatures. Such a step would make the CBSV system more efficient, and thereby a more effective tool in combatting identity fraud.

We further believe that this change is necessary to promote the usage of the CBSV system. There are currently many employers who want to perform CBSVs, but choose not to due to the inconvenience of the SSA-89 wet signature form. As a result, we believe that this initiative to modernize the CBSV system would propel more employers to utilize the service, ultimately decreasing identity fraud.

NAPBS thanks you for your leadership on this issue and welcomes the opportunity to partner with you in promoting Americans' safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Sorenson", written in a cursive style.

Melissa Sorenson, Executive Director
National Association of Professional
Background Screeners