

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Andrew Ferguson
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Ferguson:

Congratulations on your recent designation by President Trump as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Despite the recent work of the FTC to address senior scams, as outlined in the FTC's "Protecting Older Consumers 2023-2024 Annual Report", scams targeting seniors continue to rise in my home state of Georgia. The number of scams is sharply increasing across the nation, including in Georgia, which ranked among the top five states most affected by financial fraud in 2023¹.

In Georgia, there is a notable uptick in reports of deceptive schemes targeting seniors, leading to significant financial losses for individuals aged 60 and older. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, losses from scams exceeded \$25 million in 2020, climbed to more than \$33 million in 2021, surged to \$78 million in 2022, and reached an alarming \$92 million in 2023². In the first quarter of 2023 alone, Georgia reported approximately \$33.4 million in fraud losses, ranking it 12th nationwide³. The financial and emotional strain on Georgia's seniors, as well as their caregivers, is substantial, eroding their trust in the broader financial system.

As the agency responsible for safeguarding consumers from unfair and deceptive businesses practices, you play a pivotal role in addressing this crisis. In light of the release of your agency's "Protecting Older Consumers 2023-2024 Report", I respectfully request responses to the following questions by March 14, 2025:

- 1. Industry Partner Training:** Pages 34 and 35 of the report detail efforts to implement new guiding principles for industry partners, with a focus on improving industry training to address senior scams. While the report notes progress in this area, there is no data provided to demonstrate the impact of these efforts. Has the progress reported in the guiding principles implementation resulted in any meaningful decrease in the number of senior scams since the fourteen committee members provided the positive June 2024 update detailed in the report?

¹ Forbes, Natalie Campisi, [The 10 Most Scammed States In America](#), August 2023

² Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigative Division, [2020 IC3 Elder Fraud Report](#), March 2021

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigative Division, [2021 IC3 Elder Fraud Report](#), March 2022

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigative Division, [2022 IC3 Elder Fraud Report](#), November 2022

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigative Division, [2023 IC3 Elder Fraud Report](#), May 2024

³ Forbes, Natalie Campisi, [The 10 Most Scammed States In America](#), August 2023

2. **Outreach Efforts:** Page 14 of the annual report details over 600 outreach events facilitated by FTC staff in Washington, D.C., and eight regional offices aimed at protecting various communities from scams. How many of these events were held in Georgia in 2024? Will you commit to hosting in-person outreach events in Georgia in 2025 to further engage with local communities and raise awareness about senior scams?
3. **Underreporting Issues:** The report highlights significant financial losses among older adults, estimating \$61.5 billion in 2023, with only \$7.1 billion reported. Page 18 of the report notes that older adults are 13% less likely to report fraud than those aged 18-59, and on page 27, the report mentions the challenges in estimating the true cost of fraud due to underreporting. What steps is the FTC taking to increase fraud reporting among seniors to improve enforcement and protection efforts specifically targeted to seniors?

Georgia's senior population has surpassed 1.2 million⁴, and they deserve the peace of mind that comes with financial security. Unfortunately, too many seniors are continuing to fall victim to scams that threaten their financial stability.

I look forward to your response and to the continued efforts of the FTC in safeguarding the financial well-being of seniors nationwide.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

⁴ United States Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, [Georgia](#), 2023