

Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado



1649 Downing Street, Denver, CO, 80218

November 9, 2005

The Honorable Diana DeGette
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: HR4127 – The Data Accountability and Trust Act

Ms. DeGette:

I'm writing as the President of the Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado regarding HR4127, the Data Accountability and Trust Act, which recently passed the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer protection. I understand that this bill soon may come up for a hearing before the full Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I understand that Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA) has offered an amendment that would ban the sale of Social Security Numbers, and that this amendment may be considered by the full committee. If this amendment is adopted, It will be a blow to investigative professionals who now depend on Social Security Numbers in their efforts on behalf of individuals and businesses in many types of civil and criminal matters.

SSN's can be key to our efforts to locate witnesses, in civil and criminal cases, to find those responsible for personal and business fraud, to reunite friends, to locate and determine the health and welfare of children, to verify true identities, and much more.

Indeed, often presented as a measure to fight identity theft, legislation that would deny private investigators access to SSN's kills one of the major resources we need to find those very thieves.

I ask for your help in assuring that this valuable resource remain available to private investigators.

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson
President

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