

Federal Trade Commission, FTC, which recommended much of what is contained in this legislation.

The occurrence of identity theft in the United States has reached epidemic proportions. The incidence of this crime rose 15 percent in 2002, and 80 percent in 2003. The FTC stated in February 2005 that each year nearly 10 million Americans—or roughly 4.6 percent of the domestic adult population—are victimized by identity thieves. The FTC indicates that physical and online identity theft accounted for 39 percent of the more than 635,000 consumer fraud complaints filed last year with the agency. The costs associated with identity theft are enormous. In 2003, the FTC estimated that the losses to businesses and financial institutions due to identity theft totaled \$48 billion, and the out-of-pocket losses to consumers totaled \$5 billion, which does not take into account the average 300 hours spent by victims restoring their good names.

This year alone, there have been at least 43 reported information breaches affecting potentially more than 9 million Americans. This string of data theft has focused the attention of Congress, consumers, and privacy proponents. It has raised questions concerning the business practices of data brokers and whether consumers' personal information is adequately protected from identity thieves. The difficulty of finding solutions to this and other types of identity theft is striking a balance between ensuring adequate security of sensitive personal information while not inhibiting the legitimate free flow of information that is vital to the domestic economy and law enforcement.

The bill that we introduce today will not end all identity theft. No legislation can accomplish that objective. But this bill would require bolstered information safeguards and ensure notification of consumers whose sensitive personal information has been acquired without authorization. More specifically, the bill, among other things, would direct the FTC to develop rules that would require all covered entities that handle sensitive personal information to develop, implement, and maintain appropriate safeguards to protect such information, and provide effective notice to consumers in the event of a breach. The bill would limit the solicitation of Social Security numbers by covered entities, and restrict employers, State agencies, or educational institutions from displaying social security numbers on identification tags for employees and students, and for drivers licenses. The bill also would allow consumers to freeze their credit for a reasonable fee to protect themselves from identity theft, and preempt similar State or local law in an effort to provide a uniform Federal standard rather than a patchwork of widely varying State or local laws.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation that will

mitigate to the greatest extent possible the occurrence of identity theft in this country, but without inhibiting an information sharing system that yields extraordinary benefits to every American.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1409. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill that will allow the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to provide grant funding and technical assistance to small, rural communities in Alaska for critical water and sewer projects. These rural communities are only accessible by either aircraft or boat.

This important funding was originally authorized as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and was reauthorized in 2000. The authorization for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 2005. Every fiscal year, the EPA transfers funding authorized by this program to the State of Alaska's Village Safe Water Program, which is managed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

The water and sewer conditions in the villages in Alaska that still need this critical funding rival the conditions in rural communities in third world countries. For example, residents in some villages in Alaska have to go to a central source in the community to get fresh water. This source is usually a well. Instead of flushing toilets, residents have to use a device called a "honeybucket." This device is a large bucket with a toilet seat on top. When the honeybucket is full, it is usually dumped in a lagoon or on land. Sometimes, these dump locations are near sources of drinking water.

The Village Safe Water program has been a success over the years. Many homes in Alaska's rural communities now have plumbing due to funds authorized by this program. However, thirty-three percent of homes in these communities still do not have in-house plumbing. It is unacceptable that the residents of these communities still do not have access to conventional plumbing in their homes in 2005.

Earlier this year, the Office of Management and Budget published a Program Assessment Rating Tool report concerning this program. This report found several deficiencies concerning the administration of this program. However, I have been assured that the EPA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation are working closely together to correct these deficiencies.

It is imperative that we reauthorize this critically important program before the end of this fiscal year. The health and well-being of rural Alaskans is at stake.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1409

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. GRANTS TO ALASKA TO IMPROVE SANITATION IN RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES.**

Section 303 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 1263a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking "50 percent" and inserting "75 percent"; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "\$40,000,000" and inserting "\$45,000,000"; and

(B) by striking "2005" and inserting "2010".

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 1222. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

SA 1223. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2360, supra.

SA 1224. Mr. REID (for Mr. BYRD (for himself and Ms. STABENOW)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2360, supra.

SA 1225. Mr. GREGG (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1139 proposed by Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. HATCH) to the bill H.R. 2360, supra.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

SA 1222. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ No Federal employee who discloses, or has disclosed, classified information, including the identity of a covert agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, to a person not authorized to receive such information shall be permitted to hold a security clearance for access to such information.

SA 1223. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. Any federal officeholder who makes reference to a classified Federal Bureau of Investigation report on the floor of the United States Senate, or any federal officeholder that makes a statement based on an FBI agent's comments which is used as propaganda by terrorist organizations thereby putting our servicemen and women at risk, shall not be permitted access to such information or to hold a security clearance for access to such information.

SA 1224. Mr. REID (for Mr. BYRD (for himself and Ms. STABENOW)) proposed