

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2436

To establish an Office of Consumer Advocacy and Outreach within the Federal Trade Commission to protect consumers from certain unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16 (legislative day, MARCH 15), 2006

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish an Office of Consumer Advocacy and Outreach within the Federal Trade Commission to protect consumers from certain unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Trade Com-
5 mission Consumer Advocacy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER**
2 **ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH.**

3 There is established within the Federal Trade Com-
4 mission an Office of Consumer Advocacy and Outreach.

5 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVO-**
6 **CACY AND OUTREACH.**

7 The purpose of the Office of Consumer Advocacy and
8 Outreach is to protect minority consumers, disabled con-
9 sumers, and other targeted consumers from unfair or de-
10 ceptive acts or practices that violate section 5 of the Fed-
11 eral Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).

12 **SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER**
13 **ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH.**

14 The head of the Office of Consumer Advocacy and
15 Outreach shall—

16 (1) assist law enforcement personnel in—

17 (A) investigating unfair or deceptive acts
18 or practices that violate section 5 of the Federal
19 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) and that
20 affect minority, disabled, or other targeted con-
21 sumers; and

22 (B) increasing the amount of information
23 available about such acts or practices through
24 the Consumer Sentinel database system or an
25 equivalent database system;

1 (2) provide consumers, including minority, dis-
2 abled, or other targeted consumers, information re-
3 garding detecting unfair or deceptive acts or prac-
4 tices;

5 (3) administer a program that permits individ-
6 uals to anonymously report information regarding an
7 unfair or deceptive act or practice that affects mi-
8 nority, disabled, or other targeted consumers;

9 (4) carry out a program to provide a monetary
10 reward to an individual who reports an unfair or de-
11 ceptive act or practice that affects minority, dis-
12 abled, or other targeted consumers if such report re-
13 sults in the Federal Trade Commission obtaining a
14 civil penalty from a person liable for such act or
15 practice; and

16 (5) carry out a public awareness campaign in
17 Spanish to inform Spanish-speaking consumers
18 about the services provided by the Office and the
19 award program described in paragraph (4).

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