

crafty and know how to sound convincing. Whatever the reason, a warning sign that can slip by a victim might trigger a second look by financial service representatives trained to spot common scams, who know enough about a senior's habits to question a transaction that doesn't look right. In our work on the Aging Committee, we have heard of many instances where quick action by bank and credit union employees, broker-dealers, and investment advisors has stopped a fraud in progress, saving their customers untold thousands of dollars.

Let me give you an example. Earlier this year, a senior citizen in Vassalboro, ME, was looking to wire funds from his account at Maine Savings Federal Credit Union to an out-of-state location, supposedly to bail out a relative who was in jail. Something about this transaction didn't sound right to the teller supervisor at the credit union. She questioned the customer, who told her he had gotten a call from an "official" at the jail, who had instructed him not to speak to anyone about the transaction. Fortunately for this senior citizen, this supervisor was able to spot this as a scam, and her quick thinking saved him from falling victim to it.

In another case, just two weeks ago, an alert bank employee in Nebraska noticed suspicious withdrawals from the checking account of a senior citizen who was a customer of the bank. Not knowing what to do, and without sharing confidential information, this bank teller called the Senate Aging Committee's fraud hotline for guidance. Our staff advised her to contact the local Area Agency on Aging. With the SeniorSafe program in place, bank tellers all over the country will know how to respond when situations like this arise in the future.

Regrettably, Federal laws with the important intention of protecting consumer privacy can make it difficult for financial institutions to report suspected fraud to the proper authorities.

Our bill would clarify these laws to encourage banks, credit unions, investment advisors, and broker-dealers to report suspected financial fraud targeting senior citizens to regulators, law enforcement, or adult protective services agencies.

A key feature of the bill is the liability protection it provides: financial institutions and their employees are protected from suit so long as employees are trained in how to spot and report suspected financial exploitation; their reports are made in good faith and on a reasonable basis, and they report to the proper authorities.

Our bill is based on Maine's innovative SeniorSafe program, a collaborative effort by Maine's regulators, financial institutions, and legal organizations to educate bank and credit union employees on how to identify and help stop financial exploitation of older Mainers. This program, pioneered by Maine Securities Administrator Ju-

dith Shaw, also serves as the template for model legislation developed for adoption at the state level by the North American Securities Administrators Association, or "NASAA". The SeniorSafe Act and NASAA's model State legislation are complementary efforts, and I am pleased that NASAA has endorsed our bill.

Combating financial abuse of seniors requires regulators, law enforcement, and social service agencies at all levels of government to work collaboratively with the private sector. Financial institutions occupy a critical nexus between fraudsters and their victims, and can play an important role. Their employees, if properly trained, can be a first line of defense protecting our seniors from these fraudsters. The SeniorSafe Act encourages financial institutions to train their employees, and shields them from lawsuits when they make good faith, reasonable reports of potential fraud to the proper authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

NORTH AMERICAN SECURITIES  
ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
Washington, DC, October 27, 2015.

Re The SeniorSafe Act of 2015.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS,  
*Chairman, Senate Special Committee on Aging,*  
Washington DC.

Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL,  
*Ranking Member, Senate Special Committee on Aging,*  
Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS AND RANKING MEMBER MCCASKILL: On behalf of the North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA"), I'm writing to express strong support for your work to better protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation through the introduction of the SeniorSafe Act of 2015. Your legislation will better protect seniors by increasing the likelihood that financial exploitation targeting the elderly will be identified by financial services professionals, and by removing barriers that might otherwise frustrate the reporting of such exploitation to state securities regulators and other appropriate governmental authorities.

Senior financial exploitation is a difficult but critical policy challenge. Many in our elderly population are vulnerable due to social isolation and distance from family, caregiver, and other support networks. Indeed, evidence suggests that as many as one out of every five citizens over the age of 65 has been victimized by a financial fraud. To be successful in combating senior financial exploitation, state and federal policymakers must come together to weave a new safety net for our elderly, breaking down barriers to identify those who are best positioned to identify red flags early on and to encourage reporting and referrals to appropriate local, county, state, and federal agencies, including law enforcement.

As you know, state securities regulators, working within the framework of NASAA, are in the late-stages of our own concerted effort to bolster protections for elderly investors at risk of exploitation, including through the development of model legislation to be enacted by states to promote re-

porting of suspected exploitation. While the approaches contemplated by the recently announced NASAA model legislation and the SeniorSafe Act differ in some respects, they are complementary efforts, both undertaken with the shared goal of protecting seniors by increasing the detection and reporting of elderly financial exploitation.

The SeniorSafe Act consists of several essential features. First, to promote and encourage reporting of suspected elderly financial exploitation by financial services professionals, who are positioned to identify and report "red flags" of potential exploitation, the bill would incentivize financial services employees to report any suspected exploitation by making them immune from any civil or administrative liability arising from such a report, provided that they exercised due care, and that they make these reports in good faith. Second, in order to better assure that financial services employees have the knowledge and training they require to identify "red flags" associated with financial exploitation, the bill would require that, as a condition of receiving immunity, financial institutions undertake to train certain personnel regarding the identification and reporting of senior financial exploitation as soon as practicable, or within one year. Under the bill, employees who would be required to receive such training as a condition of immunity include supervisory personnel; employees who come into contact with a senior citizen as a regular part of their duties; and employees who review or approve the financial documents, records, or transactions of senior citizens as a part of their regular duties.

The benefits of the types of reporting that the SeniorSafe Act aims to facilitate and encourage are far-reaching. Elderly Americans stand to benefit directly from such reporting, because early detection and reporting can minimize their financial losses from exploitation, and because improved protection of their finances ultimately helps preserve their financial independence and their personal autonomy. Financial institutions stand to benefit, as well, through preservation of their reputation, increased community recognition, increased employee satisfaction, and decreased uninsured losses.

In conclusion, state securities regulators congratulate you for introducing the SeniorSafe Act of 2015. We share and support the goals of this legislation, and look forward to working closely with you as the legislation is considered by the Senate.

Sincerely,  
JUDITH M. SHAW,  
NASAA President  
and Maine Securities Administrator.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 299

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin was born on March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah, the

predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces, and served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six Day War;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin served as Ambassador to the United States from 1968 through 1973, Minister of Defense from 1984 through 1990, and Prime Minister from 1974 through 1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995;

Whereas, in 1975, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the interim agreement with Egypt that laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt;

Whereas on September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, also known as the Oslo Accords;

Whereas, upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Yitzhak Rabin said to the Palestinian people: "We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough! We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker;

Whereas, on October 26, 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan;

Whereas, on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv, where his last words were: "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace. . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the state of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism and invasion, and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace;

Whereas, in the years following Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, successive United States Administrations have sought to help Israel and the Palestinians achieve a negotiated two-state solution that ends their conflict;

Whereas today Israel and the Palestinian territories are the site of renewed terrorism and violence;

Whereas the continuation and deepening of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the absence of progress toward a two-state solution has contributed to suffering among both peoples, including being one of several factors driving the current terrorism and violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories; and

Whereas today, more than ever, the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin can be a model for securing peace during a time of conflict: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the life and accomplishments of Yitzhak Rabin and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and the people of Israel on the twentieth anniversary of his death;

(2) recognizes and reiterates its continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the people and Governments of the United States and Israel;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the process of building a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians based on two states for two peoples, living side-by-side in peace and security; and

(4) calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to quell the current outbreak of terrorism and violence, and to resume work toward a

negotiated two-state solution ending the conflict once and for all.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. President, I rise today to submit a resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

On November 4, 1995, after a major peace rally, then-Prime Minister Rabin was gunned-down by an Israeli nationalist. Rabin's brutal assassination ended the life of a man who lived for peace.

Today, with renewed terrorism and violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, leaders should look to the example of Mr. Rabin, who forged peace against long odds. His assassin may have ended his life, but his message must live on.

During Mr. Rabin's first term as Israel's Prime Minister, he laid the foundation for peace with Egypt by concluding the Sinai Interim Agreement on September 1, 1975.

The eventual 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty officially ended hostilities between the two nations. Importantly, Egypt became the first Arab state to recognize Israel. Today, because of Mr. Rabin's work, Egypt and Israel remain at peace.

During Mr. Rabin's second term as Prime Minister, he continued to seek peace with Israel's neighbors. He led the effort to sign the Oslo Accords, which created the Palestinian Authority, and which serves as a framework for the creation of a Palestinian state today.

For their efforts, Mr. Rabin, Yasir Arafat and Shimon Peres won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize.

That same year, Israel and Jordan also signed a peace treaty, making Jordan the second Arab state to establish peace with Israel.

On this, the twentieth anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, I offer my condolences to his family. May they continue to find solace in the legacy of a leader who sought peace when others sought war.

May leaders all around the world look to him for inspiration on how to lead courageously and chart a more peaceful future for one's people.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 300—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 7, 2015, AS NATIONAL BISON DAY

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HATCH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 300

Whereas bison are considered a historical symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison were integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are more than 60 Indian tribes participating in the Intertribal Buffalo Council;

Whereas numerous members of Indian tribes are involved in bison restoration on tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian tribes have a combined herd on more than 1,000,000 acres of tribal land;

Whereas the Intertribal Buffalo Council is a tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 477);

Whereas bison can play an important role in improving the types of grasses found in landscapes to the benefit of grassland;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2012, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 162,110 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs, and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas a small group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 bison to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the "Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge";

Whereas in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, managers from Indian tribes, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have participated in the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 7, 2015, the first Saturday of November, as National Bison Day; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.