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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0303

July 7, 2005

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The Honorable Terry Goddard
Attorney General
State of Arizona
1275 W Washington Street
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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

JUL 19 2005

ADMINISTRATION

Dear Terry:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your opposition to printing Social Security numbers (SSNs) on Medicare, Veterans and Department of Defense (DoD) identification cards. I appreciate the opportunity to reply and apologize for my delayed response.

I share your concern for individuals' right to privacy, and realize that a solution to the epidemic of identity theft needs to be found. In 1998, I authored Public Law 105-318, the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, which made identity theft a federal crime. This law made it unlawful for an individual to transfer or use a "means of identification" of another person with the intent to commit an unlawful activity.

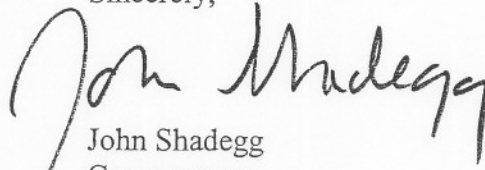
You will be pleased to know that on June 24th, the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill passed the House with an amendment that would remove SSNs from new Medicare cards. The amendment, offered by Congressman Filner, passed with my support.

Additionally, on May 19, 2005, Congressman Clay Shaw introduced H.R. 1745, which would restrict how government agencies may display SSNs in particular instances. The bill would remove SSNs from all government-issued employee cards, which would include DoD and Department of Veterans Affairs employee identification cards. However, removing SSNs from Veteran benefit cards is not discussed in the bill.

Congressman Shaw's bill currently awaits consideration by the Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit. I assure you that when this bill comes to the floor for consideration, I will keep your comments in mind. In addition, I will monitor any other developments regarding the removal of SSNs from other identification cards.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with me. Rest assured that I will continue to support legislation to curb identity theft. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Shadegg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Shadegg" clearly distinguishable.

John Shadegg
Congressman
Arizona 3rd District
U.S. House of Representatives

JBS:ES