



News From
DAVE WELDON

Florida's 15th District -- *Serving Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, and Polk Counties*

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Weldon Votes to Improve Protection from Identity Theft

Bill Increases Penalties and Establishes Aggravated Identity Theft

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, U.S. Representative Dave Weldon, M.D. (R-Indialantic) voted in favor of H.R. 1731, the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act, which increases penalties and establishes enhanced penalties from aggravated ID theft.

“In today’s society, high-tech crimes such as identity theft are all too common and we need to be certain that there are stiff penalties for these crimes,” Weldon said.

The bill strives to curb identity theft by increasing the punishment of and establishing a new crime of aggravated identity theft, which is the use of a stolen identity to commit certain crimes. The bill established a mandatory minimum penalty of two years in prison for those convicted of aggravated identity theft.. Those committing aggravated identity theft to carry out an act of terrorism will receive an additional mandatory minimum five-year penalty.

During the past four years the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has reported identity theft as the number one consumer complaint. Last year nearly 200,000 identity theft complaints were filed with the FTC.

For more information on identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission website has established the following website: <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>

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