RECOVER PII Act

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Background

In 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) identified two separate breaches that compromised the personal data of approximately 22.1 million federal government employees and contractors, and affected the personal data of Members of Congress. The incident is believed to have been a state-sponsored intrusion by China and resulted in the exposure of personal data including Social Security numbers, addresses, financial details, security clearance files, and background investigation records. Following this historic breach, Congress directed OPM – through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 – to provide identity protection services to the federal employees, contractors, and Members of Congress whose personal data was compromised for not less than 10 years, the end of which will come in September 2026.

Now, a decade later and following many insidious cyber-attacks and intrusions by China and others, Congress should continue to protect the victims of the 2015 OPM data breaches. The ever-increasing amount of personal data in cyberspace has generated novel dangers to new and long-time federal workers, military members, their families, and federal government contractors who work to serve the American people. The risks are not theoretical. On November 17, 2025, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report detailing the implications digital footprints can have for military personnel, ultimately threatening the safety of servicemembers and their families, military operations, and national security.

Additionally, following the shooting of two Minnesota elected officials – State Representative Melissa Hortman, State Senator John Hoffman - and their partners, court documents alleged that the shooter had found his targets by gathering information about his victims from data brokers. The federal workforce at large, servicemembers, and federal contractors should be free from fear that their service to the nation endangers the safety of their families, or themselves.

Summary

Since 2015, the cyber environment has changed substantially to where traditional style cyber-attacks are not the only threats to consider. As such, Congress must work proactively to address the novel issue of enduring digital footprints. The Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Enduring Response and Protecting Identifiable Information (RECOVER PII) Act does this by:

1. Amdending language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 so that victims of the 2105 OPM breaches are provided continuous protection services, and
2. Providing reimbursements to federal employees and contractors for privacy enhancing services.