

PRESS RELEASE

August 24, 2009

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**FEDERAL LEGISLATORS AND THE SANTA FE GROUP
ADVANCE IDENTITY CRIME VICTIMS “BILL OF RIGHTS”**

Meetings on Capitol Hill drive recommendations that will form legislation

August 24, 2009, Santa Fe, NM – The Santa Fe Group Vendor Council met with federal lawmakers on Friday to recommend legislative language to advance the rights of identity crime victims. The meetings follow a June hearing on the Victims Bill of Rights, during which The Santa Fe Group CEO Catherine A. Allen and other identity crime experts testified before the US Congress Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives.

The recommendations were drafted by members of the Legislative Subcommittee of The Santa Fe Group Vendor Council’s Victims’ Rights Working Group and call for:

- Funding to encourage state and local law enforcement to use Federal Trade Commission tools for documenting and reporting identity crimes
- Amendments to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to define medical identity crime, clarify the rights of victims, and assist victims in recovering
- Research on the efficacy of documents, such as identity theft passports, that distinguish criminal identity theft victims from perpetrators
- A requirement that the Internal Revenue Service flag files of victims and verify any new entries to those files
- New regulations, enacted within the next 12 months, to enforce these recommendations

“Identity crime is a serious offense with significant costs to individual Americans, business, and our society as a whole,” said Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM). “We must be sure victims are being treated fairly and that their rights are being upheld.”

“We will use these recommendations in our work to create legislation that ensures victims of identity crime are treated fairly under the law,” said Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO).

At the core of this effort is [The Identity Crime Victims Bill of Rights](#), which calls for consistent processes for handling identity crime incidents in addition to amendments to privacy legislation and

regulation so victims can more easily access and correct their personal information records. The five basic rights address the need for legislation that enables individual victims of identity theft to access and correct personally identifiable information (PII) records. The Bill of Rights draft white paper, titled **Victims' Rights: Fighting Identity Crime on the Front Lines**, is available at no cost at <http://santa-fe-group.com/whitepapers/register.php>. A companion [webinar](#) with publicized trends and remedies is also available at <http://tiny.cc/kY1uf>.

An April roundtable to review the initial Victims Bill of Rights was attended by more than 30 attendees from federal agencies, financial institutions, and other stakeholders including the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice.

The Santa Fe Group is soliciting participation from diverse organizations to ensure its work is inclusive and takes into account varying points of view. The three working groups are focusing on identity crime victims' issues:

- **Awareness and Education**, to help debunk identity crime myths;
- **Legislative Influence**, to help promote new legislation and rectify the unintended consequences of current laws; and
- **Best Practices**, to identify, develop and promote resources for victims.

To participate in any of the working groups, contact Robin Slade, <mailto:robin@santa-fe-group.com>.

"This is another milestone in our quest to drive legislation around identity crime," said Rick Kam, president of ID Experts who led the drafting of the Bill of Rights and legislative recommendations.

"With this new Bill of Rights in effect, those impacted by identity crime will have the rights needed to restore their lives."

"It's exciting to see lawmakers and industry stakeholders working together to empower victims and make identity crime recovery less burdensome," said Catherine A. Allen, Chairman and CEO of The Santa Fe Group. "The Victims Bill of Rights has gained real momentum."

About The Santa Fe Group

The Santa Fe Group (santa-fe-group.com) is a strategic consulting company providing unparalleled expertise to leading financial institutions and other critical infrastructure companies. Drawing from the most advanced thinking in the industry, access to experts in risk management, technology, security, innovation and other critical areas, and our deep knowledge of industry regulatory and legislative issues, we bring outstanding results to our clients. The Santa Fe Group is a strategic partner to BITS (bits.org), a nonprofit consortium whose members are 100 of the nation's largest financial institutions.

The Santa Fe Group Vendor Council promotes the development of secure, best-in-class technology solutions for use in the financial services industry and beyond. Established in 2006, The Santa Fe Group Vendor Council brings vendor intellectual capital together with IT strategy at top financial

institutions and other critical infrastructure companies. For more information about The Santa Fe Group Vendor Council, go to http://www.santa-fe-group.com/capabilities_vendor-council.php.

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