



May 13, 2026

The Honorable Tim Scott
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Warren:

On behalf of AARP, which advocates for 125 million Americans age 50 and older, we write to express our strong support for provisions in the market structure legislation released ahead of the Committee’s markup that protect Americans from fraud and preserve the power of states to protect their residents from crime. By requiring operators of cryptocurrency kiosks to register with the Department of the Treasury as money transmitters — and by expressly preserving the authority of states to regulate these machines — Section 205 of the legislation takes a critical step toward protecting older Americans from one of the fastest-growing and most devastating fraud vectors in the country today. We deeply appreciate the Committee’s leadership in incorporating this language, and we urge that it be preserved through markup, conference, and final passage.

Cryptocurrency kiosks have become criminals’ tool of choice for stealing from older adults. More than 30,000 of these machines now sit in supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, bars, and restaurants across the country. Scammers impersonating government officials, tech support, or businesses convince victims that an urgent financial matter requires them to withdraw large amounts of cash and deposit it into a kiosk, where the funds are instantly transferred to a digital wallet controlled by the criminal. Once the transaction is complete, the money is virtually impossible to recover.

The scale of this harm is staggering. In 2025, the FBI received over 13,460 complaints involving cryptocurrency kiosks, with reported losses exceeding \$389 million – which we know is just a fraction of the actual loss due to underreporting. The pattern is impossible to ignore: older Americans are being targeted, and they are losing their life savings.

AARP is encouraged that Section 205 preserves the authority of states to enact and enforce stronger consumer protections. State action has been at the forefront of the response to crypto kiosk fraud. To date, 29 states have enacted laws to protect residents using cryptocurrency kiosks — 12 of them in 2026 alone — and Indiana, Tennessee, and Minnesota have gone further by adopting full bans. An additional six states and Washington, D.C., have issued specific regulatory guidance. These state-level safeguards, including transaction limits, fraud warnings,

refund rights for victims, fee disclosures, and licensing requirements, are saving older Americans real money every day. The rule of construction in Section 205 sends an unmistakable signal that federal registration is a floor, not a ceiling, and that states retain full authority to protect their residents from this rapidly evolving threat.

As the bill moves through markup and beyond, our single, central ask is straightforward: please preserve the Section 205 language as written, including both the money transmitter registration requirement and the rule of construction protecting state authority. Older Americans cannot afford to see this provision weakened as the legislation advances.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff reach out to Clark Flynt-Barr of our Government Affairs team at cflyntbarr@arp.org.

Sincerely,



Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs
AARP