american securities association
America's Voice for Main Street's Investors

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 5490, the Dismantle Foreign Scam Syndicates Act

Dear Speaker Johson and Leader Jeffries:

The American Securities Association ("ASA")[1] writes in strong support of H.R. 5490, the Dismantle Foreign Scam Syndicates Act.

ASA has been a leading advocate in the fight against financial fraud, including the growing threat from criminal networks operating with the backing of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Protecting America's seniors, working families, and savers from fraud, whether domestic or foreign in origin, has always been a bipartisan priority, and ASA has consistently worked with Members of both parties, regulators, and law enforcement to advance it.

ASA commends Congressman Shreve for introducing this important legislation, and we commend Members on both sides of the aisle for working in a bipartisan fashion to advance it. The Foreign Affairs Committee's unanimous 48–0 vote to report the bill sends a clear message: defending Americans from foreign criminal networks is not a partisan issue.

The scale of the threat is staggering. According to the FBI's 2025 Internet Crime Report, Americans reported losing nearly $20.9 billion to cybercrime last year, a 26 percent increase over 2024 and roughly double the $10.3 billion reported in 2022.[2] Investment fraud was once again the single costliest category, at $8.65 billion,[3] and cryptocurrency-related scams accounted for a record $11.4 billion.[4] Older Americans were hit hardest: victims age 60 and over reported $7.8 billion in losses, up 59 percent in a single year.[5] Because these figures reflect only what

[1]ASA is a trade association that represents the retail and institutional capital markets interests of regional financial services firms who provide Main Street businesses with access to capital and advise hardworking Americans how to create and preserve wealth. ASA's mission is to promote trust and confidence among investors, facilitate capital formation, and support efficient and competitively balanced capital markets. ASA has a geographically diverse membership base that spans the Heartland, Southwest, Southeast, Atlantic, and Pacific Northwest regions of the United States.

[2]Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), *2025 Internet Crime Report* (April 2026), https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2025_IC3Report.pdf; FBI IC3, *2022 Internet Crime Report* (March 2023).

[3]FBI IC3, *2025 Internet Crime Report*, Cyber-Enabled Fraud: Top 5 Cyber-Enabled Fraud Crime Types by Loss (investment fraud losses of $8,648,617,756).

[4]FBI IC3, *2025 Internet Crime Report*, cryptocurrency-related complaints (181,565 complaints; $11.366 billion in reported losses).

[5]FBI IC3, *2025 Internet Crime Report*, complaints and losses reported by individuals age 60 and over.

victims report to the FBI, the true toll on American investors and their retirement savings is almost certainly higher.[6]

The criminals behind these losses are not lone fraudsters. They are increasingly part of sophisticated transnational crime organizations that run scams like a business: recruiting, training, setting quotas, laundering proceeds, and constantly adapting their tactics. Many of these operations are run by Chinese organized crime groups out of large scam compounds in Southeast Asia, where trafficking victims are forced to target Americans around the clock.

These syndicates now use artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and social media to build trust with victims before stealing their savings; the FBI linked nearly $900 million in 2025 losses to AI-enabled fraud alone.[7] ASA has repeatedly warned that foreign adversaries, chief among them the CCP, sponsor or tolerate the fraud networks targeting American families and investors.[8] The CCP's failure to rein in criminal groups operating from and through China is a direct threat to the savings of hardworking Americans, and the private sector, regulators, and investors are too often left playing catch-up.

An organized, international threat demands an organized, whole-of-government response, and H.R. 5490 delivers one. The bill creates an interagency Task Force, led by the Secretary of State and including the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and the Treasury, with participation from the SEC and FTC. It requires a comprehensive strategy to shut down scam centers, examine the role of the CCP and other enablers, sanction the criminals and complicit officials who support these operations, recover stolen assets for American victims, and build a coalition with allied nations.

It also holds the effort accountable through measurable results reported to Congress each year. These provisions align closely with ASA's longstanding call for stronger public-private partnerships, better intelligence on emerging scams, and a sharper focus on the CCP and other foreign actors who target American families and investors.

[6] FBI IC3, *2025 Internet Crime Report*. Figures include only complaints submitted to IC3; many incidents of fraud go unreported.

[7] FBI IC3, *2025 Internet Crime Report*, artificial intelligence section (more than 22,000 complaints linked to approximately $893 million in losses).

[8] Letter from the American Securities Association to the House Committee on Financial Services, outlining recommendations to protect American investors from fraud networks sponsored by foreign adversaries, including Communist China (March 5, 2026), https://www.americansecurities.org/post/asa-outlines-recommendations-to-protect-american-investors-from-fraud.

ASA urges all Members to vote in favor of H.R. 5490. We thank the bill's bipartisan sponsors for their leadership and stand ready to work with Congress, law enforcement, and regulators to protect America's investors and savers from these criminal networks.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Iacovella

Christopher A. Iacovella
President & Chief Executive Officer
American Securities Association

Cc: The Honorable Brian Mast, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Honorable Greg Meeks, Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Honorable French Hill, Chairman, House Committee on Financial Services
The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member, House Committee on Financial Services