



March 9, 2009

Dear Friend,

**I want to alert you to a potential scam related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.**

**Scammers are trying to take advantage of a provision in the recently-passed federal stimulus package to steal personal financial information from retirees or people with disabilities on a limited income.**

**The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) calls for a one-time \$250 payment to each person who receives**

**Social Security,  
SSI,  
Veterans or  
Railroad Retirement benefits.**

**Eligible recipients do not have to apply.**

**They should receive a letter in April from the Social Security Administration and all the payments are to be delivered by mailed check or through direct deposit by the end of May.**

**The ARRA was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in February.**

**According to the Social Security Administration, there have already been reports of people claiming to work for the federal government asking for more information to process the \$250 payment.**

**The caller then tries to obtain Social Security numbers or information about bank accounts or credit cards.**

**While Social Security employees do sometimes call beneficiaries, they do not ask for personal financial information.**

**If someone calls claiming to be from Social Security, do not give your Social Security number or any personal financial information without checking.**

**You can verify that the caller is in fact from the Social Security Administration by calling (800) 772-1213.**

**For more information about the ARRA payment itself, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/payment](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment) or contact my office at (914) 428-1707 or (845) 639-3484.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nita".

**Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress**

#### **Privacy Statement**

**Congresswoman Lowey appreciates the opportunity to communicate with you via e-mail.**

**Please note that her office will not provide your e-mail address to other organizations.**

**If you would like to contact her further, please visit <http://www.lowey.house.gov> and complete the web form for messages.**

**Congresswoman Lowey cannot guarantee the integrity of the text of this message if it was not sent to you directly from her Congressional e-mail account.**

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