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SENATE JUDICIARY  
EXHIBIT NO. 2  
DATE 1/11/11  
BILL NO. SB 57

TO: Members of the Senate of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Joy Bruck, State President AARP Montana  
RE: Support of SB 57

Chairman Shockley and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the record my name is Joy Bruck, State President and volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP supports SB 57 because taking advantage of seniors and people with disabilities is a serious offense that deserves additional penalties.

The FTC reports that “while telemarketing fraud victimizes consumers of all ages, levels of income, and backgrounds, the elderly are disproportionately represented among victims of telemarketing fraud; and in some scams, 80 percent or more of the victims are 65 or older. Fraudulent telemarketers often deliberately target the elderly and take advantage of the fact that many older people have cash reserves or other assets to spend on deceptively attractive offers. Older Americans seem especially susceptible to fraudulent offers for prize promotions and lottery clubs, charitable solicitations, and investment offers.”

AARP in many ways tries to educate seniors about protecting themselves from scams, but when criminals are successful they should be punished. SB 57 sends the message that targeting older people and those with disabilities is especially egregious. We urge the committee to support SB 57.