

## **The Post Office Services for Trustworthy Identity Act of 2023**

The rise of AI threatens to supercharge our even with low cost deepfake technology spreading. In 2021 breakdowns in identity systems have been linked to over \$212 Billion in suspicious activities including money laundering and identity theft, according to a recent Treasury Department report. This issue is poised to get much worse, as the proliferation of AI-driven deepfakes drives the cost of running identity scams down to near-zero, and allows scammers to bypass many of our traditional digital identity verification mechanisms.

One of the most secure and reliable forms of identity verification is In-Person Proofing, where individuals present physical credentials that are verified in person by an attendant. This form of identity verification is resistant to many forms of fraud and abuse, particularly those that may be made worse by AI. Unfortunately, in person identification is currently impossible for most businesses to offer, as they do not maintain retail networks near the vast majority of the country.

Fortunately, there is an institution that maintains a retail network within a short drive of the majority of Americans, and has the capability to provide identity verification services: the United States Postal Service (USPS). This Bill:

- Allows, but does not require, the USPS to offer identity verification and related services to the private sector, building on their existing capabilities which are currently available only to government agencies.
- Authorizes USPS to issue authenticators to verified individuals, such as physical security keys, for use in future interactions.
- Authorizes the USPS to conduct identity proofing at any USPS location, or through their authorized employees at any other location, such as the home of the individual being verified.
- Subject to the consent of the individual being verified, allows for enrollment in or creation of digital accounts or systems as may be convenient for the individual, including concurrent enrollment in multiple accounts or systems.
- Allows for the creation of a mechanism whereby third parties may sponsor an individual by paying the fees for their verification.
- Authorizes the USPS to charge such fees as necessary to cover the costs of providing these services.