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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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August 23, 2005

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the chair of a Select House Committee, pursuant to House Resolution 351, to investigate and review the Commonwealth's policies, procedures and practices related to identity theft and the protection of our citizens' personal and sensitive information.

The improper and illegal use of computer technology has made identity theft the fastest growing crime in the nation. Even though identity theft prevention laws have been implemented, this crime continues to be a serious problem in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Unwitting victims wake up to financial devastation that can take years to remedy. Therefore, it is imperative we in state government work to protect people from this new age crime.

The Select Committee will conduct a series of public hearings and informational meetings (some public, some private) to discuss the status of protecting personal data collected by the Commonwealth and to evaluate the effectiveness of current policies and procedures. The committee will, as necessary, make recommendations to strengthen the existing policies, procedures and statutes. Your Deputy Chief of Staff, Art Stephens, and your Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Steve Crawford, have both expressed your eagerness to work with this Select Committee. Together, I am confident we can tackle this extremely difficult issue. I look forward to working with you and your administration.

If you have any questions or require additional information relative to the Select Committee's investigation, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Flick, Chairman
House Select Committee on
House Resolution 351