

**Additional Questions for the Record**  
**Geoffrey Starks**  
**Federal Communications Commission**

**RANKING MEMBER TED CRUZ (R-TX)**

45. To address ongoing waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, would you support the adoption of the IG’s recommendation—that applicants provide last 4 digits of their social security number—today?

**Answer:** As discussed in my response to Question 39, the FCC did not implement this recommendation because it would have limited the ability of participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and Women, Infants, and Children Program to participate in ACP, as Congress required. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you if you have concerns.

45a. Could Commissioner Starks clarify his answer to the question below? Why would requiring last four digits of SSN “have limited the ability of participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and Women, Infants, and Children Program to particip[ate] [sic] in the ACP”?

**Answer:** Congress established the eligibility criteria for the ACP in the IIJA. In the IIJA, Congress specified that households with a student on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program were eligible for ACP and that households participating in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) were eligible for ACP. Neither program requires a social security number to enroll. Thus, an active participant in either the Free and Reduced Lunch Program or WIC may not be able to enroll in ACP, contrary to Congressional intent, if we were to otherwise require the last four digits of a social security number. In order to fully implement the program as Congress intended, the FCC provided alternative options for participants to prove their identity (e.g., provision of a military ID or passport). While applicants may also submit the last four digits of their social security number, permitting these alternatives ensures that all participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and WIC are able to apply for ACP, as Congress prescribed.