

Floridians,

While we are dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, I want to remind everyone about a <u>recent</u> announcement that credit reporting agencies Experian, Equifax and TransUnion are offering free online credit reports to all Americans on a weekly basis through April 2021. The major credit reporting agencies are offering this service to help individuals and families protect their financial health during the sudden and unprecedented hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Good credit is a vital asset worth protecting to ensure a strong financial future for you and your family. To obtain your free credit report visit AnnualCreditReport.com and click on "Request your free credit reports".

Earlier this week, <u>hackers compromised Twitter accounts</u> of prominent companies and individuals including Apple, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, former President Barack Obama, and presidential nominee, Joe Biden. This was the most widespread breach the platform has ever seen, while hackers attempted to elicit payments to an anonymous cryptocurrency account. This unprecedented hack underscores the very real security concerns related to online fraud and I'm warning every Floridian to stay on guard for fraud and understand the warning signs of scams. If major companies like Apple and billionaire celebrities like Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos can fall victim to hacks, so can you. That is why it's vital to constantly monitor your personal and business accounts for signs of fraud and report it immediately at **FraudFreeFlorida.com**.

In addition, I <u>sent a letter</u> on July 15, Tax Day, to SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk encouraging him, and business owners and innovators like him, to leave the burdensome taxes in California behind and relocate their businesses to the Sunshine State. As a Florida resident, Musk wouldn't be subject to state income taxes and depending on how his many businesses are organized, he may realize up to a 50% savings on corporate income taxes as Florida's 4.4% corporate income tax is half of California's 8.84% rate.

Finally, remember to keep our first responders and healthcare workers in your thoughts as they continue to work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. Their hard work is not going unnoticed and I'm forever grateful for their sacrifice and service.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis Chief Financial Officer State of Florida



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