

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**JIMMY PATRONIS'**  
**RUNDOWN**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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## Floridians,

This week, I had the opportunity to [speak](#) before a House Subcommittee about the importance of passing [House Bill 7](#), which provides COVID-19 liability protections for Florida businesses.

It's my top priority this year to advocate for vital liability protections for Florida businesses and job creators so they can live without the constant fear of bad actors looking to make a quick buck off the pandemic. Those who are working to do right by their customers, and are following government guidelines, should be able to operate without fear of frivolous litigation. Without actions by the Legislature, we could see more litigation raise insurance rates and hamper Florida's recovery.



In addition, I also **called** for legislation to protect consumers by giving them the ability to opt-out of having their personal data harvested and sold by big tech companies. As someone that's been in small business my entire life, I believe in the power of private enterprise, but private enterprise must respect property rights and the way big tech firms leverage our data looks more like theft than a legitimate economic transaction. There's nothing more valuable to a person than one's own identity, and big tech has figured out a way to cash-in while leaving the consumer in the dark. It's time we recognize the reality that consumers have a property interest in the private information big tech companies are buying and selling on a daily basis.

Lastly, I **warned** consumers to beware of COVID-19 vaccination scams. According to the **Better Business Bureau (BBB)**, consumers may notice an increase in suspicious texts or emails claiming to have information about the vaccine in exchange for personal information.

When it comes to scams, the best defense is a good offense and I encourage all Floridians to educate yourself on the warning signs of fraudulent activity. Be sure to always stay on guard and monitor your financial accounts for signs of ID theft or fraud. If you believe you have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud, report it immediately at **FraudFreeFlorida.com**.

Have a happy and safe weekend!

Sincerely,



*Jimmy Patronis*  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

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**Jimmy Patronis** ✓  
@JimmyPatronis

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We should consider getting this on the next Cabinet agenda. Big-tech coordinated to shut down conservative accounts but still allows Nicolás Maduro to spread lies.

**Randy Fine** @VoteRandyFine · Jan 12

This morning I asked the Governor and Cabinet to divest the state from Amazon, Twitter, Apple, Google, and Facebook. They may get to decide who they do business with. So do we. @Fla\_Pol



10:21 AM · Jan 12, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

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