



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
STATE OF FLORIDA

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the month of March is designated as Fraud Prevention Month, with the purpose of educating consumers and businesses about scams and furnishing them with the appropriate information on how to protect themselves from falling prey to unfair business; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) is focusing its efforts on educating topics such as identity theft, phishing, misleading advertising, online shopping, false lotteries, and health fraud; and

**WHEREAS**, the ICPEN efforts target particular audiences, such as the young, the elderly, small businesses, and charities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Trade Commission reported an overall increase in the number of fraud reports and dollars lost in 2023, with 2.6 million reports and over \$10 billion dollars stolen; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a report from the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center released in 2023, Florida residents lost nearly \$845 million from scams, the second highest amount in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to Florida's ongoing fraud epidemic, I, as CFO, have launched Fraud Free Florida, an anti-fraud initiative and website aimed at better coordinating collective investigative efforts and to protect Florida's consumers from scams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fraud Free Florida program has established a \$25,000 reward program to incentivize and encourage individuals to report information on suspected insurance fraud that can lead to an arrest and conviction.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida does hereby recognize March as

**FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH**

and encourages all Floridians to be diligent and alert against potential scams.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF** the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida has hereunto subscribed his name on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.



  
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**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL