



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

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## Floridians,

This week, I [announced](#) the new [Mental Health Care Service](#) webpage on the Department of Financial Services (DFS) website, which aims to provide resources and assistance to mental health services for consumers. This past legislative session, [HB 701](#) was signed by Governor DeSantis and establishes new communication duties for health insurers and HMOs and creates reporting requirements for DFS.

I'm proud to provide Floridians with resources they need to seek vital treatment so they can live a healthier life. As we've seen throughout the pandemic, mental health challenges are on the rise nationwide, especially within our first responder and front-line healthcare communities. Thank you to Governor Ron DeSantis, First Lady Casey DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for stressing the importance of mental health resources in our communities.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

### WHAT IS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH?

The term "behavioral health" refers to the promotion of mental health, resilience and well-being; the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders; and the support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions, along with their families and communities.

Mental health is a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to his or her own community.

Mental illness is collectively all diagnosable mental disorders or health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, emotion, or

### WHAT INSURANCE BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE IN FLORIDA?

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERAGE BY GROUP HEALTH PLANS UNDER FLORIDA LAW

#### THE FEDERAL MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT

On Tuesday, I recognized, October 12th, as [National Savings Day](#) and urged Floridians to make saving a priority to secure their financial well-being. Saving is the cornerstone of a strong financial foundation. Setting money aside each month allows families to handle unexpected costs or prepare for future expenses, like college tuition. As your CFO, I remain focused on ensuring all Floridians have the tools they need to make their hard-earned money work for them. For information about financial literacy programs available through the Department, please visit [Your Money Matters](#), which is a one-stop shop for tips and resources to help Floridians manage their finances wisely.

Lastly, in recognition of [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), I encouraged Floridians to 'Be Cyber Smart' and raised awareness in an effort to stay safe and secure online. Recently, [officials](#) are warning consumers of a new scam where fraudsters are creating fake Google Voice accounts to scam people without being detected. Scammers are always searching for new ways to trick their next victim and using fake Google Voice accounts is their latest ploy. I encourage all individuals and businesses to take action today to 'Be Cyber Smart' and learn how to protect your identity online to ensure you don't fall victim. Learn about the latest scams and report signs of fraud immediately at [FraudFreeFlorida.com](#).

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

Stay  
Connected





Increase Text  
Size



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## *Top Tweet*



**Jimmy Patronis**  @JimmyPatronis · Oct 10



Three years after Hurricane Michael, my love for Northwest Florida has only grown. This is God's country and our people are strong and resilient. If you haven't visited recently, please bring your family down to the Gulf Coast soon. We'd love to have you.

