



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

September 13, 2018

The Honorable Bill Galvano
Senate President-Designate
409 Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Jose Oliva
House Speaker-Designate
420 Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear President-Designate Galvano and Speaker-Designate Oliva:

Florida is a top state for both identity theft and fraud. This is not a point up for debate. In 2017 alone, 16.7 million consumers across the nation were impacted by identity fraud and more than \$16 billion was stolen from accounts. Looking at state level data, Florida is ranked number 1 for fraud and number 2 for identity theft, and residents reported fraud losses of \$54.7 million. Breaches of personal data clearly continue to be a major concern in our state.

We work every day to protect Floridians from scams, data breaches, and raise awareness about the importance of protecting financial and personal information. We do this to guard the financial well-being of all our residents.

I recently was the victim of someone impersonating me to access my protected information for political gain. Unfortunately, inconsistencies with the handling of Floridians' personal information by various state agencies and vendors has created a scenario where this information is vulnerable. Often, a simple multi-level verification process could remedy this weakness. According to a recent Forbes article, driver license information can be used to fraudulently open new credit card or cell phone accounts, for instance.

I'm glad that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) ended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the vendor that allowed my personal information to be accessed in a prohibited manner, but we need a more thorough review to close any loopholes that allow impersonation to access Floridians' personal information.

A prerequisite for doing business with the state should be proactively protecting Floridians' information. Third party state vendors handling the personal information

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of Floridians should abide by the same laws that the state does when they are handling private personal information, like driver license numbers.

I am writing to ask for your support of my plans to address this in the law during the upcoming legislative session and make any changes needed to adequately safeguard Floridians' personal data. I don't want any Floridians personal information to be improperly accessed the way mine was.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Patronis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer

JP/af/ac