

CONGRESSMAN RICKNOLAN'S EIGHTH DISTRICT REPORT

Zeroing in on Scammers Who Target Our Seniors

Congressman Nolan discusses common telemarketing scams with constituents at a recent meeting in northeastern Minnesota

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The FBI reports fraudulent schemes and scams targeting seniors and their families are on the rise. Congressman Rick Nolan wants you to be safe and aware.

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Scammers Target Seniors Be Careful - Protect Yourself



Telephone scammers are targeting our seniors and their families. This newsletter will help you avoid becoming a victim.

Unscrupulous telemarketers, direct mail offers, phony 'miracle' drugs, contest winnings, funeral and cemetery fraud, investment schemes, predatory lenders, stolen benefits checks – my staff and I hear these stories again and again as we travel throughout Minnesota.

As this newsletter points out, there's a lot you can do to protect yourself from scammers.

Remember, Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements. They are EARNED BENEFITS I am fighting to protect. If YOU believe you've been scammed or threatened with a scam, call my office at any of the numbers directly to your left. We'll help you report it, and get the assistance you need.

Meanwhile, I have co-sponsored two important pieces of bipartisan legislation to help pull the rug out from underneath crooks who attempt to victimize seniors out of their hard earned money:

The Seniors Fraud Prevention Act (H.R. 1953) will help assure faster action from federal agencies in charge of investigating and prosecuting fraud complaints.

The Protecting Seniors from Health Care Fraud Act (H.R. 3616) will better coordinate the FBI, the Attorney General, and other federal agencies against health care fraud.

Please remember, my staff and I are here to help on this or any matter of concern to you. I do hope you will find this newsletter useful.

Sincerely,

Rick Nolan

Richard Nolan Member of Congress

Congressman Nolan talks with these Little Falls area WWII Vets about protecting their Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans benefits from scammers.



Beware These Common Phone Scams

The caller says: "It's yours! And it's free."

It's Telemarketing Fraud

Scammers call offering free Medicare products, such as a hearing aid or scooter chair, in exchange for your credit card, Medicare, or Social Security number. Or they say you've 'won' or 'inherited' something valuable. Just forward a 'processing fee' or 'down payment' to receive it. Hang up!

The caller says: "I'm from the IRS, and this is about your taxes."

It's a scam to obtain your Social Security or bank account number. Hang up!

If you have a real tax issue, the IRS won't call you. They will contact you officially through the U.S. mail.

The caller says: "Grandma! Grandpa! You've got to help me!"

This caller could be a scammer pretending to be your grandson or granddaughter.

The caller will tell you they're in jail, or in a jam, and need your credit card information. They will plead with you not to tell their parents.

Prepare for this scam with your family by agreeing to a secret code word in the case of a real emergency. If you receive a call, ask, "What's the code word?" If the caller can't deliver the code word, hang up!

Need More Information on Scams and Scammers?

Visit the FBI's website: www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors

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Post this on your fridge!

DON'T BE SCAMMED PROTECT YOURSELF

There's a lot you can do to avoid being scammed. The FBI advises you to:

- 1. **NEVER** give your SOCIAL SECURITY, BANK ACCOUNT numbers, or CREDIT CARD numbers to ANYONE you don't know and trust.
- NEVER send or wire money as a "DOWN PAYMENT" or "PROCESSING FEE" in order to receive something valuable you have supposedly "won" or "inherited."
- 3. **NEVER** say YES to anything, SIGN anything, or AGREE to anything until you talk it over with someone you know and trust.
- 4. **ALWAYS** have your checks ELECTRONICALLY DEPOSITED into a savings or checking account to avoid mailbox theft.
- 5. **ALWAYS** HANG UP on anyone attempting to pressure you to decide NOW on a "SPECIAL OFFER" that is about to EXPIRE.

Questions or Concerns?

Call Congressman Rick Nolan's office at 218-464-5095 or at any of the numbers listed in this newsletter.

We are here to help you!

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