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Governor, State Auditor Raise Awareness About Fraud

DOVER (November, 2019) – Ahead of the holiday season, Governor John Carney flanked by State Auditor Kathy McGuinness and representatives from law enforcement, the Better Business Bureau, AARP, and members of the Delaware Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Governor signed a proclamation declaring November 17 – 23 as Fraud Awareness Week.

“Thank you Governor Carney for your commitment to combating fraud in Delaware,” said State Auditor McGuinness. “Preventing fraud is important to all Delaware taxpayers and businesses because they are the ones feel the effects of fraud the form of increased costs; loss of public revenues and resources; and increased expenses associated with prosecuting fraud.”

Fraud attempts increase during the holiday season, especially with online shopping. Here are some basic tips for consumers to protect themselves:

1. Use the products and services available to check account balances and transactions frequently.
2. Pay with cash or credit card versus a debit card. Credit cards can provide more protection against fraudulent activity.
3. When receiving suspicious phone calls, do not give out any account or personal information. While using ATMs, gas pumps, or debit/credit card readers in stores, always look for skimming devices.
4. When online, use secure sites that have a URL that begins with <https://> or there's a padlock or unbroken key icon in the address bar or at the bottom of the browser window. Remember to read reviews, use secure check-out options, and read all Terms and Conditions.

5. Don't make a purchase or donation if a website or caller seeks payment by wire transfer, gift card or prepaid card.

As always, citizens are encouraged to report suspected fraud to the State Auditors' Office by calling 1-800-55-FRAUD or visiting reportfraud.delaware.gov.