



NEWS

R E L E A S E

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OXENDINE WARNS OF HEALTH INSURANCE SCAM

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine said scam artists are using confusion about the recently enacted national health insurance reform to defraud consumers with phony insurance policies.

“There have been cases of consumers, especially older citizens, being sold worthless health policies, with the sales pitch that they are now required by law to have coverage,” Oxendine said. “I have no tolerance for criminals who attempt to defraud elderly victims like this.”

Misleading tactics include claiming that everyone will have to have coverage immediately or face a fine. While there are provisions for mandatory coverage, they won’t take effect until 2014.

Commissioner Oxendine cautioned Georgians to be wary when pressured to buy any kind of insurance. The Commissioner offered the following tips to protect you from scam artists:

- Beware of door-to-door sales people. Agents cannot solicit business at your home without an appointment. Do not let uninvited agents into your home.
- Check with Oxendine’s office at 1-800-656-2298 to make sure a salesperson is a licensed agent.
- Do not give out personal information, such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone you have not verified as a licensed agent.
- Verify that the plan you have chosen is backed by a licensed insurance company. You can confirm this at the number above. If buying an approved Medicare plan, all approved plans are available at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

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