



# Attorney General Bill Schuette's **SeniorBrigade**

A MICHIGAN SENIORS INITIATIVE



August 2012  
Number 28

## Michigan's Legislature Acts to Protect Seniors

In June, 2012, Governor Snyder signed ten bills into law that are aimed at protecting Michigan seniors from abuse or neglect.

The new laws include increased penalties for anyone convicted of financially exploiting a "vulnerable adult," requirements that nursing home employees report signs of abuse directly to the state, and creates a "[Mozelle Senior Alert](#)" (similar to an Amber Alert for missing children, but to assist in locating missing seniors or vulnerable adults).

## Scammers Target Seniors after the Supreme Court's Ruling on the Affordable Care Act

A few weeks ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, and their decision was watched all over the country by citizens and con artists alike. Unfortunately, con artists are using the Supreme Court's ruling (and some of the confusion surrounding it) to trick unsuspecting seniors into providing their personal financial information – such as bank account information or Social Security numbers.

The scam works like this – a con artist calls an unsuspecting senior saying that, due to the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act, they need to verify information to make sure you still qualify for your health insurance or Medicare. They may ask to verify credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, or Medicare ID numbers. All of this is a ruse to collect personal financial information and commit identity theft.

Whatever the scam looks like, remember one rule – **NEVER GIVE PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO ANYONE THAT CALLS YOU!** This is true even if the person calling you claims to be from the government or law enforcement. The government, law enforcement, and legitimate businesses will *never* call you out of the blue to ask you for any personal financial information, so if anyone calls to ask you for this information (or even to "verify" information they already seem to have), **DO NOT** provide information and hang up the phone.