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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Manage Your Passwords

Did you know that October is not just about Halloween? October is also National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and while there are many various national and statewide efforts to bring attention to important matters, cybersecurity awareness is become more prevalent than ever before.

One of the most important things in this technology-based society that we now live in is to ensure that you as a consumer, your children and our elderly population are taking steps to protect themselves against those trying to hack into your personal information. More of our devices are connected to the internet, which in turn are open to being hacked and have higher chances of receiving a technological virus.

There are many devices that record more information than you may think. For example, a thermostat or even a washing machine that is hooked up via Bluetooth or hardwire may be recording your information. In addition, an Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Roku or even your smartwatch may give others access to your personal information. It is always important to read the terms and conditions and to make sure your settings are personalized to your needs.

With a dramatic increase in online sales, use caution when providing your banking and credit card information to websites you are unfamiliar with. It is important to check the source and be doubly sure that they are a credible company.

One way to prevent cyber fraud is to regularly check all of your accounts and change passwords frequently whether it be your bank account, credit card, cellphone login, or any other platform or device. Also, when you select your passwords and security questions, do not put all your eggs in one basket by using the same passwords and answers to security questions. This creates an opportunity for someone to steal your personal information by having access to all of your accounts making it easy to collect personal information.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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