



## Media Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Governor McMaster Declares Contractor Fraud Awareness Week**

**COLUMBIA, SC** – Governor Henry McMaster has officially declared May 22 to 26, 2023 as Contractor Fraud Awareness Week in South Carolina. This proclamation aims to raise awareness among South Carolinians about predatory practices employed by dishonest contractors and emphasizes the importance of taking preventive measures to combat contractor fraud, through educational and outreach efforts by [the National Insurance Crime Bureau](#) (NICB).

In collaboration with its local and state partners in South Carolina, the NICB is dedicated to educating residents about the risks associated with fraudulent contractors. The NICB recognizes the significance of fostering a community that is well-informed and equipped to identify and avoid unscrupulous contractors.

The South Carolina Department of Insurance (SCDOI) supports Governor McMaster's proclamation of Contractor Fraud Awareness Week and applauds the collaborative efforts of the National Insurance Crime Bureau and its local and state partners.

"We are pleased to join forces with our local, state and national partners to get the word out about Contractor Fraud Awareness Week," said Michael Wise, Director of the SCDOI. "Consumer protection is central to our mission at the SCDOI. Educating our citizens about predatory practices by dishonest contractors is an important part of our efforts."

Predatory practices employed by dishonest contractors not only harm individual consumers but also have far-reaching consequences for the community as a whole. Such practices ultimately increase costs for consumers by driving up insurance premiums and compelling insurers to reevaluate risk. By proactively addressing contractor fraud, South Carolinians can safeguard their homes, protect their financial well-being, and contribute to the stability of the insurance market.

During Contractor Fraud Awareness Week, the NICB encourages residents in the Palmetto State to follow essential steps when hiring contractors for home repairs or renovations. These steps include obtaining at least three written estimates, thoroughly verifying contractor credentials, and working closely with insurers throughout the entire rebuilding process. By adhering to these practices, homeowners can significantly reduce the likelihood of falling victim to fraudulent schemes.

Read Governor McMaster's Contractor Fraud Awareness Week Proclamation [here](#). For additional resources on combating contractor fraud, please visit the SCDOI's website at [SCDOI.gov/fraud](https://www.scdoi.gov/fraud).

