



**State of Wisconsin**  
*Department of Financial Institutions*

Scott Walker, **Governor**

Jay Risch, **Secretary**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wisconsin DFI Secretary Jay Risch Joins National Campaign to Combat Fraudulent Veterans Charities**

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) Secretary Jay Risch joins the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), law enforcement officials, and charity regulators nationwide in announcing “Operation Donate with Honor,” a sweeping new donor education campaign to help donors spot and avoid fundraising solicitations that falsely promise their donations will help veterans and service members.

“With all of the misuse of the Internet and criminals using fake names, we should be very careful about checking and verifying who the solicitor is and what organization they represent,” said Secretary Risch, “and we shouldn’t assume anything even if a name sounds or looks legitimate.”

“Operation Donate with Honor,” developed by the FTC and the National Association of State Charity Officials (NASCO), pairs enforcement actions with an education campaign, in English and Spanish, to help consumers recognize charitable solicitation fraud and identify legitimate charities.

“It’s very important to remember that there are many legitimate veterans charities in our state which do great work for all of our Wisconsin veterans and making donations to them is vital for them to continue their mission,” Secretary Risch added, “just work with someone you know.”

- Ask how much of any donation will go to the charitable program you want to support;
- Click on this link to check whether the charity/fundraiser is registered:  
<http://www.wdfi.org/CharitableOrganizations/HowToQuicklyResearchWisconsinCharitableOrganizations.pdf>
- Search the charity’s name online with the word “scam” or “complaint,” see what others are saying;
- Check out the charity’s ratings at the Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Watch, or Charity Navigator;
- Never pay with cash, a gift card, or by wiring money; and
- Consider paying by credit card, which is the safest option for security and tax purposes.

Before giving to a charity, if you have questions, please click on this link for answers –  
<http://www.wdfi.org/CharitableOrganizations/faqDonors.htm> .

Complaints may be directed to DFI by clicking on the following link and printing the form:  
<http://www.wdfi.org/CharitableOrganizations/forms/dfi-dccs-2255.pdf>, or by contacting the FTC [Consumer Response Center](#) (877-382-4357).

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