annually. That figure gets worse

because 1 in 10 financial abuse

victims turns to Medicaid as a direct

result of their savings being stolen.

The cost to Medicaid for financial

abuse alone costs more than \$2.6

It's clear that Wisconsin and our

nation has a lot of work to do in

this area. We cannot afford to be

unprepared for the Silver Tsunami to

hit us head on. I'm encouraged by the partnerships we are forming and

welcome your ideas as we start to

Attorney General Brad Schimel

was elected as Wisconsin attorney

general in 2014. He began his

career as a frontline prosecutor in

the Waukesha County DA's Office

in 1989. After serving 17 years as

an assistant district attorney, he

was elected Waukesha County

District Attorney in 2006 and was

In his career as a frontline prosecutor,

Schimel tried more than 150

jury trials in every type of case a

prosecutor handles, from traffic

cases to sexual assaults to numerous

homicides. His distinguished career

includes recognition from the

Wisconsin Association of Victim

and Witness Professionals as

"Wisconsin Professional of the Year"

for his work on behalf of survivors of

reelected twice.

sexual assault.

tackle this important issue.

billion annually.



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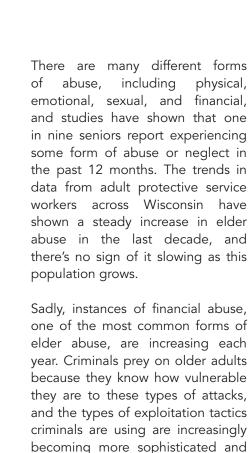
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one of the most common forms of elder abuse, are increasing each year. Criminals prey on older adults because they know how vulnerable they are to these types of attacks, and the types of exploitation tactics criminals are using are increasingly becoming more sophisticated and brazen. I saw it firsthand earlier this year when an elderly friend was contacted by an individual posing as the government, claiming that my friend owed back taxes. The "government official" threatened to arrest my friend if he did not comply with certain demands.

My friend grew up in a generation making this a top priority.

Elder abuse doesn't just impact seniors, it impacts our economy and all taxpayers. Financial abuse has been reported to cost older Americans more than \$2.6 billion

There are many different forms abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial, and studies have shown that one in nine seniors report experiencing some form of abuse or neglect in the past 12 months. The trends in data from adult protective service workers across Wisconsin have shown a steady increase in elder abuse in the last decade, and there's no sign of it slowing as this

where he didn't have debt and feared getting into trouble. The criminals even spoofed the phone number calling him to pretend to be the local law enforcement agency. My friend and his wife were afraid and embarrassed, and paid the criminals thousands of dollars only to realize later it was a scam. While these victims are my friends, I know this happens every day to older adults across Wisconsin, and I am



Strengthening Wisconsin's Response to ELDER ABUSE

BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BRAD SCHIMEL

Over the next two decades. Wisconsin's population of adults 65+ will increase by more than 72 percent. This changing population trend is common among other states across the country, and many experts have dubbed it the

As Wisconsin's attorney general, I want to be ready for this coming

tsunami, and we need to prepare key partners, such as law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service providers, financial institutions, senior living facilities, advocacy organizations, and many oth-

dress barriers in investigation and ers, for the increased challenges prosecutions of elder abuse, "Silver Tsunami." that lie ahead for seniors. For this strengthen consumer protection reason, I've assembled a multifor seniors, and create recommendisciplinary Task Force on Elder dations for improved cross-system Abuse. In addition to studying the communications.

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impact of elder abuse in Wiscon-

sin and assessing ways to improve

outcomes for this growing popu-

lation of citizens, the task force

will develop strategies to ad-