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For Immediate Release

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From Baby Boomers to Gen Y, All Consumers Can Act to Protect Their Credit
AFSAEF Offers Tips, Free Resources for National Consumer Protection Week, March 7-13

WASHINGTON, March 8, 2010...In observation of National Consumer Protection Week (<http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw>) taking place March 7-13, the American Financial Services Association Education Foundation (AFSAEF) is supporting this year's theme – *Dollars & Sense: Rated "A" for All Ages* – by highlighting tips to help all consumers protect their credit. The foundation's recommendations below are presented by the age group for which they are especially important.

Young Adults: Don't disclose personal information on social media sites or in emails. Keep your credit card in a secure place, especially when living with roommates.

Older Adults: When borrowing money to buy a new home or for other purposes, review and compare the financing terms offered by more than one creditor. Don't sign a loan contract until you have read it, your questions have been answered satisfactorily and all blank spaces have been filled in.

Senior Citizens: Avoid telephone solicitors and other salespeople who try to rush or pressure you into buying products, services or features. When applying for credit, consider consulting with a trusted family member and bringing him or her with you when meeting with a financial representative.

All Adults: Check your credit report regularly by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com.

"Above all, consumers should create a budget and adjust it on a regular basis," said Susie Irvine, AFSAEF's president and chief executive officer. "Those with a handle on their finances and discretionary income are less likely to end up in situations where they've taken on more debt than they can afford."

AFSAEF (www.afsaef.org) has a wide range of free resources for people of all ages. Among them is "Protecting Your Credit," a downloadable pamphlet with additional tips on how consumers can protect themselves and avoid credit fraud. The foundation's Consumer Protection Web page (www.afsaef.org/consumer_protection.cfm) features a "scam alert" and links to government agencies and other organizations that can assist when problems arise.

Based in Washington, D.C., AFSAEF's (www.afsaef.org) mission is to help consumers realize the benefits of responsible money management, understand the credit process and seek help if credit problems occur. It is affiliated with the American Financial Services Association (www.afsaonline.org), the national trade association for the consumer credit industry, protecting access to credit and consumer choice.

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