

Dear Mr Hansen,

I am definitely in favor of improving the current system, as what I experienced was not only surprising, but alarming. The lack of controls currently in place provide a haven for fraudulent behavior. It is hard to believe the system could be run so loosely.

My situation started when I received an automated email that my account had been updated. At first I thought my accountant may have filed something so I reached out to them to inquire about any recent activity. They informed me to call the Secretary of State office, which I did. Unfortunately, they said there was nothing they could do and that anyone can change the information online if they pay the filing fee (really? how crazy is that?). They said I could report fraud to the Attorney General's office. I contacted the Attorney general's office and they did nothing. They simply said they were trying to impact changes at the legislature. They informed me the only way to correct was for me to pay a filing fee and correct the changes the fraudster made to my account, which I begrudgingly did. How to believe a government agency could be run so poorly. Any private sector business would be out of business with a system like this.

Later I received a call from Carver County. Apparently someone had been using my business to collect fraudulent rent funds from the county. It seems like they were successful in obtaining a fair amount of money from the county and eventually they reached out to me to inquire. I informed them of the fraudulent activity on my account and it was directly connected to the person who made the changes.

After I received the call from the county, I went online to check my account again. In doing so, I learned that my account was listed as not in good standing. When I inquired, I learned that the fraudster later declined the credit card charge they used to make the changes, so now there was an outstanding balance on my account. The state then told me that I had to pay for the fraudsters fee in order to have my account back in good standing. Seriously? You can't make this stuff up. The state should be totally ashamed of the current system in place on the way it is administered.

How many taxpayer dollars were scammed from Carver County as a result of this fraud? How much wasted time did I and others have invested in trying to correct this fraud? What other damage is being done?

That fact that the state allows any individual willing to pay the change fee of another business is simply ludicrous. There should be safeguards that ensure only authorized agents of a business can make the change. That should include two factor authorization or similar measures to

validate. When fraudsters do make changes, the state should move swiftly and aggressively to correct and punish the criminals.

Stop the madness.

Best,

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