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**For Immediate Release**

Insert Month Day, 2009

**Rep. XXX to Hold Town Hall on Internet Privacy and Safety**

Rep. XXX partners with XXX to provide tips to keep consumers safe online

**CITY, STATE** – On [DATE], Rep. XXX will host a town hall to outline tips and guidance to help consumers protect their personal information from online threats like identity theft, spam and unwanted collection of information. The event will include practical advice from experts including [INSERT EXPERT] regarding steps consumers can take to protect themselves and their families.

Today, consumers share more personal information about themselves online to take advantage of the rich experiences the Internet offers such as social networks, health services, online banking and photos sharing sites. At the same time, cybercriminals try to find new ways to use this personal information for profit.

While most consumers are concerned about protecting their privacy and more specifically, their personal information online, most do not understand the threats they face or the tools available to secure their assets. According to Consumer Reports’ 2008 [State of the Net Survey](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/electronics-computers/computers-internet/internet-and-other-services/protect-yourself-online/overview/protect-yourself-online-ov.htm), American consumers lost nearly $8.5 billion and replaced 2.1 million computers because of viruses, spyware and e-mail scams.

The town hall will start with a panel discussion followed by a Q&A session on issues of concern. [INSERT QUOTE from host on the importance of consumer education]

* **WHO**:
* **WHEN**:
* **WHERE**:

For more information contact XXX@XXX.gov.

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