

From the House

Protecting Your Personal Info

The recent Equifax data breach has affected the sensitive personal information of approximately 143 million Americans, many here in Hartford.

In order to determine if your personal information may have been impacted and for steps to protect your information, visit: www.equifax.com/personal and www.equifaxsecurity2017.com. You should be vigilant in reviewing account statements and credit reports and immediately report any unauthorized activity to your financial institutions. Criminals can use your info to get a second mortgage on your house or lease a car by impersonating you. They could go after your tax refund or Social Security benefits, even medical information.

Make sure to monitor personal information and visit the Federal Trade Commission's website, www.ftc.gov/idtheft, to learn about steps you can take to better protect against identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. In addition, it had been brought to my attention that the Equifax site had originally included an arbitration clause that had confusing language which could be interpreted as meaning anyone who signed up for free credit protection would waive their legal rights to take legal action for damages. However, the state Attorney General has Equifax assured me that no waiver of legal rights was intended and that portion of the webpage has now been clarified. I hope this information is helpful and again, for anyone who thinks they may have been affected by this breach, I encourage you to go to www.equifaxsecurity2017.com for more information.