

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives Representative Bob Thorpe (R-6) 1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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Rep. Thorpe Encourages Arizonans to Take Steps to Safeguard Their Credit Following Equifax Security Breach

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX - Representative Bob Thorpe (R-6) today encouraged Arizonans to take important steps to safeguard their credit, in light of the recent Equifax security breach that resulted in the theft of the <u>personal information of 143 million Americans</u>.

Equifax is one of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies in the United States and has been in existence since 1899.

"In light of the recent hacks of Equifax, I encourage Arizonans, whether they were directly affected by the breach or not, to consider freezing their credit with the 3 major credit reporting agencies, in order to ensure that their personal identities are protected," said Representative Thorpe. "Freezing your credit is a quick process that can be accomplished online or over the telephone. After this is completed, be sure to monitor all of your credit cards and financial accounts regularly for unauthorized activity, no matter how small. Additionally, never provide your social security number, passwords, bank account numbers, electronically or over the telephone. If someone contacts you claiming to be, for example, the IRS or your bank, do not give them any of your personal information, but instead, contact those institutions directly. Please encourage your friends and family to also take these protective measures. Repairing your credit, after someone has stolen and abused it, is a long, costly, painful process."

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