

PRESS RELEASES

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Heitkamp Calls on DOJ, SEC, FTC and Senate Banking Committee to Investigate Equifax (<https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=1D25E90A-AA3E-42FC-922F-AA0EFC7CB0CD>)

Senator is Calling for Immediate Investigations Into Equifax Stock Sales following Data Breach, and Examinations to Prevent Future Data Breaches

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp today announced she joined Republican and Democratic senators to call on key federal agency leaders to investigate reports that senior Equifax officials sold over \$1.5 million in the company's securities within days of its announcement of a cybersecurity breach. The breach could compromise the personal information of up to 143 million Americans – including 248,000 North Dakotans.

Heitkamp underscored the need to enforce the law to its fullest extent against any wrongdoing. She specifically **urged** (https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/5a49c19d-c89b-4340-8aba-133f5ab8d9e0/9.12.17-final-equifax-letter.pdf) heads of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to launch an investigation. Additionally, Heitkamp **pressed** (https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/548ba04a-51a4-44ac-959b-2f30c044bc82/letter-to-crapo-re-equifax-2017-09-12.pdf) the chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs – where she serves as a subcommittee ranking member – to hold investigative Committee hearings on both the breach itself to better protect American families and consumers going forward, as well as to hold senior Equifax officials accountable for any potentially unlawful behavior.

“In a world increasingly reliant on technology for financial planning, North Dakota families depend more than ever on the integrity of credit report companies to guard their personal information with the utmost care and respect,” said Heitkamp. “That’s why when executives at Equifax profited from the sale of \$1.5 million in securities just days before publicly announcing that the millions of Americans’ personal information – including up to a third of North Dakota’s population – was exposed to hackers, we need all hands on deck to find out what these executives knew and when they knew it. We need answers, and I’m calling on leaders of the SEC, FTC, DOJ, and Senate Banking Committee to do just that. If there’s sufficient evidence to warrant criminal prosecution, it’s necessary to hold these executives accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Cybercrimes and identity theft are frightening and we also need to do everything we can to prevent such breaches to keep families safe.”

Click here (https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/5a49c19d-c89b-4340-8aba-133f5ab8d9e0/9.12.17-final-equifax-letter.pdf) to read a letter Heitkamp and 36 other senators sent to SEC Chairman Jay Clayton, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and Acting FTC Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen.

Click here (https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/548ba04a-51a4-44ac-959b-2f30c044bc82/letter-to-crapo-re-equifax-2017-09-12.pdf) to read a letter Heitkamp and nine other senators on the U.S. Senate Banking Committee sent to Senate Banking Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID).

Heitkamp is encouraging North Dakotans and North Dakota businesses to make sure they are protecting themselves in the wake of the Equifax data breach by visiting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) list of how to check for their own identity safety and to keep their information secure going forward. **Click here** (<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/identity-theft-protection-following-equifax-data-breach/>) to read more about the CFPB’s recommendations on identity and data safety.

Firmly committed to improving and strengthening cybersecurity, **launching a webpage** (<https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/10-smart-ways-to-protect-yourself-from-cyber-threats>) featuring “10 Smart Ways to Protect Yourself From Cyber Threats” to help North Dakotans improve their cybersecurity at home and at their businesses. **In January** (<https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/1/heitkamp-statement-on-senate-committee-hearing-considering-the-nomination-of-dhs-secretary-nominee-gen-john-f-kelly>), Heitkamp met with then-U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary nominee General John F. Kelly about cybersecurity and a host of other issues.

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Permalink: <https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/9/heitkamp-calls-on-doj-sec-ftc-and-senate-banking-committee-to-investigate-equifax> (<https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/9/heitkamp-calls-on-doj-sec-ftc-and-senate-banking-committee-to-investigate-equifax>)

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