

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**Anne M. Gobi**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
Worcester, Hampden,  
Hampshire & Middlesex

Tel. (617) 722-1540  
Fax (617) 722-1078  
E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

**CONTACT: Brian Ferrarese**  
**PHONE: 617-722-1540**

### **Senator Anne Gobi Pushes for Consumer Protections in Wake of Equifax Hack**

**BOSTON** – Legislation heard today by the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure would ramp up consumer data protections and measures dealing with credit reports. **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)**, a co-sponsor of the bill, joined her colleagues in supporting the legislation.

Originally filed in response to data breaches at multiple retailers, the bill has been updated in response to the Equifax hack announced on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The bill would allow Massachusetts residents to freeze their credit reports for free and their credit reports and scores could not be used or access without their consent. These protections are critical in a data breach as massive as the Equifax breach, which affected 143 million people. The information assessed primarily includes names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers.

The company is offering free identity theft protection and credit file monitoring, however the fees are only waived through November 21<sup>st</sup>.

In her support letter to the committee Senator Gobi said she “feels strongly that we must protect consumers from cybersecurity attacks, especially when financial institutions cannot. The only beneficiary in a cybersecurity attack is a criminal. Demanding a fee for protection is an unnecessary barrier to something that saves both consumer and businesses time and money. “

The Attorney General has announced her intent to sue the company over its failure to protect the sensitive and personal information of up to 3 million Massachusetts residents. The Attorney General's office has also issued guidance for consumers in the wake of the data breach, which may be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-09-08-equifax-data-breach.html>

For more information on how to protect yourself, please see the Federal Trade Commission's step-by-step guide at <https://identitytheft.gov/>.

Additionally, please contact my office at 617-722-1540 if you need any guidance on this issue.

###