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NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
BANKING  
JUDICIARY  
RULES  
FINANCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2008

Supervisor  
Town of Clayton  
405 Riverside Drive  
Clayton, NY 13624

Dear Community Leader:

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and I am writing to remind you about important resources for fighting identity theft available online at the United States Federal Trade Commission's website, [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft).

As you may know, [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) offers invaluable resources for identity theft victims, concerned consumers, businesses, law enforcement officials, and more. From a consumer's perspective, this website enables citizens to protect themselves better from identity theft, determine when they have become victims, and take effective actions to recover from the theft. This website also provides a wealth of information for law enforcement officials, including a step-by-step guide to helping victims of identity theft in your community.

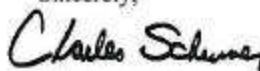
In addition to the online materials, the Federal Trade Commission also offers a number of consumer identity theft education materials, including *The Avoid Theft Consumer Education Kit*. To order free copies of this and other identity theft publications in print, visit the agency's bulk order website at [www.ftc.gov/bulkorder](http://www.ftc.gov/bulkorder) and select "Identity Theft, Privacy, and Security" from the "Publication Categories" menu on the left side of the page. These publications may also be downloaded free of charge as a PDF document from the same website. You can also order these publications over the phone by calling toll-free 1.877.382.4357 and selecting option 4.

Let me also take this opportunity to mention an important bill that I am sponsoring in this Congress to combat identity theft. The Personal Data Privacy and Security Act of 2007 (S.495), of which I am a cosponsor, would require notification to consumers who are at risk of identity theft following a data security breach, increase criminal penalties for identity theft, require entities that maintain personal data to establish policies to protect that data, and require the government to establish rules protecting privacy and security when it uses information from data brokers. An amendment that I authored would establish an Office of Federal Identity Protection to offer assistance to consumers. This law would be an excellent start to stem the growing epidemic of identity theft. I will continue to fight for the passage of this legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

What bank robbery was to the Depression Era, identity theft is to the Information Age. Indeed, the Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as ten million Americans have their identities stolen each year. It is crucial that we provide our citizens with the education and tools they need to avoid being victimized, to recognize a theft, and to respond quickly and effectively. If you have any further questions, please contact Marco De León in my Washington office at 202.224.6542.

I thank you for your unrelenting efforts to fight this serious crime in your community. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these and other critical issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me about this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator