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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Consumer Notice:*

## **Ohio Consumers Should Monitor Accounts in Wake of Data Breach**

*Ohio Bankers, Credit Union Leagues Offer Tips to Safeguard Deposits*

Columbus, Ohio (**Sept. 12, 2014**) Trade associations representing Ohio's banks and credit unions, which collectively serve nine million Ohioans, suggest consumers take action following recent data breaches at well-known and often-frequented retailers.

The Ohio Bankers League and Ohio Credit Union League, the state's leading financial services trade associations, advise customers and members to take the following three steps to help avert fraudulent charges on their payment cards.

- **Regularly monitor accounts for unauthorized charges or debits and report even minor suspicious transactions.** In previous data breaches, criminals have attempted to post a small charge to check for live accounts or to see if a consumer is monitoring an account. Larger fraudulent charges could occur hours, weeks, or even months later. Mobile fraud-alerting programs are a particularly effective way to warn you of suspicious activity.
- **Alert your bank or credit union immediately if fraudulent charges or debits are suspected.** Customers are generally protected by their bank, credit union, or card provider when these retail point-of-sale breaches happen, but it is critical to report fraudulent charges or debits quickly.
- **Take advantage of free credit monitoring services if provided by impacted retailers.** While doing so, consumers should deal directly with the retailer to avoid falling prey to phishing scams or other fake credit monitoring offers.

In addition to consumer vigilance, banks and credit unions are taking steps to safeguard accounts. These include real-time monitoring for indications of suspicious activity, putting temporary blocks on accounts for affected customers, reimbursing customers and members for confirmed fraudulent transactions, and/or re-issuing affected cards.

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### **About the Ohio Credit Union League**

The Ohio Credit Union League, with offices in Columbus, is a state trade association representing 336 credit unions. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial institutions owned and democratically-controlled by their members. Ohio credit unions provide savings, loans, and other consumer financial services to 2.76 million members. To learn more, visit [www.aSmarterChoice.org](http://www.aSmarterChoice.org).

### **About the Ohio Bankers League**

The Ohio Bankers League is the trade association for the Ohio banking industry – and is Ohio's only organization focused on meeting the needs of all banks and thrifts in the Buckeye State. The non-profit association is comprised of 200 FDIC-insured financial institutions including commercial banks, savings banks, and savings and loan associations ranging in size from just over \$13 million in assets to more than \$3 trillion. View [www.ohiobankersleague.com](http://www.ohiobankersleague.com) for more details.