

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Cooperative 
Credit Union Association

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Contact

Walter Laskos

Mobile: 310-871-0263

Office: 508-229-5643

wlaskos@ccua.org

Rhode Island Credit Unions Sound the Alarm on Elder Financial Abuse

Lt Gov. Dan McKee and area mayors join in the call for consumer education and action

August 22, 2018 (JOHNSTON, RI)—The Credit Unions of Rhode Island along with Lt Governor Dan McKee, Johnston Mayor Joe Polisena, North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi, and Cooperative Credit Union Association President/CEO Paul Gentile sounded the alarm on elder financial abuse yesterday during a noontime news conference at the Johnston Senior Center in Johnston, RI.

Standing before an audience of more than 50 seniors gathered at the center, as well as a news media contingent from local Providence stations, the delegation spoke about the increasing incidents of scams and fraud being perpetrated against seniors, calling for financial education and consumer action to prevent its expanding growth.

“Elder financial abuse is an invisible epidemic impacting thousands of Rhode Islanders and seniors across the country. Unfortunately, because of the sensitive nature of this crisis, many cases go unreported and unresolved,” said Lt. Governor McKee. “As Chair of our state’s Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, I challenge all Rhode Islanders to join my office and the Credit Unions of Rhode Island in spreading the word on how to identify elder financial abuse and how to stop it.”

One of the newest resources recently made available in the fight to prevent elder financial abuse is [CU Senior Safeguard](#), a free online educational program sponsored by the Credit Unions of Rhode Island in cooperation with credit unions in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Delaware, all members of the [Cooperative Credit Union Association](#) (CCUA).

In his remarks before the gathering, Gentile recognized and thanked the Credit Unions of Rhode Island for their commitment to elders by having frontline staff become certified in *CU Senior Safeguard*, a dramatic move to ensure they are doing all that’s possible to protect elders from financial harm. He also joined with the Lt. Governor by inviting all residents of Rhode Island to become more familiar with elder financial abuse and how to take action by

participation in *CU Senior Safeguard*, accessible to all on the credit union website, [Better Values - Better Banking](#).

"The Credit Unions of Rhode Island are grateful to Lt. Governor Dan McKee for his support in calling attention to elder financial abuse," Gentile said. "By sounding the alarm on this growing travesty perpetrated against seniors and by making *CU Senior Safeguard* available to all the people of Rhode Island, credit unions hope to lead the way in efforts to protect seniors and their life savings from loss, abuse and scams."

Yesterday's 'Lunch & Learn' news conference in Rhode Island was the first of several being planned by CCUA for senior centers in Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire where credit unions hope to highlight concerns of elder financial abuse and the value *CU Senior Safeguard* can bring in the fight to prevent it.

About the Cooperative Credit Union Association

The Cooperative Credit Union Association is a regional trade organization serving as the voice for nearly 200-member credit unions primarily located in the States of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. CCUA member credit unions serve a collective membership base of more than 2.3 million consumers. It's on behalf of these member credit unions that CCUA advocates before Congress and state legislatures, regulatory bodies and to the general public through its *Better Values—Better Banking* consumer awareness campaign. In addition to advocacy, CCUA also engages its members with an array of industry resources, from compliance assets and marketing support to vetted products and service providers; educational workshops and conferences; and, a variety of communications, from a daily e-newsletter to simulcast video programs. For more information, visit www.CCUA.org.

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CUTLINE - (L-R) Mayor Charles Lombardi, N Providence, RI; Mayor Joseph Polisena, Johnston, RI; Lt Governor Dan McKee; and CCUA President/CEO Paul Gentile.

