

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Ohioans Encouraged to Commit to Saving and Investing During America Saves Week 2020

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Feb. 24–29 is America Saves Week and the Ohio Department of Commerce is reminding Ohioans of the importance of saving and investing.

America Saves Week, coordinated by the Consumer Federation of America since 2007, is an annual call to action for Americans to commit to saving and to be aware of their finances and saving behaviors.

“If you want to save and invest in your future, it’s important to set goals and commit to a plan. America Saves Week is a great opportunity for Ohioans to set aside time to do this,” said Sheryl Maxfield, director of the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Maxfield said Commerce’s Division of Financial Institutions and Division of Securities provide Ohioans with information to help them reach their saving and investing goals.

“Our Division of Financial Institutions’ Office of Consumer Affairs is a great starting point when setting your goals,” she said. “We have a number of resources on topics that will help the bottom line of everyone who lives in our state, including [a comprehensive document](#) providing simple steps you can take to make sure your household finances are in good shape now and in the long run.”

The office also has an [overview of consumer credit document](#), which provides information about the importance of creating and maintaining good credit, a key element of a person’s ability to save.

If someone has questions about a state-chartered financial institution or consumer finance company, or would like to file a complaint, they can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 866-278-0003.

When it comes to investing in securities, Maxfield said the Division of Securities provides a wealth of information to help Ohioans make wise decisions, as well as tips to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. Consumers can find a variety of materials on the Investors & Public page of the Division’s [website](#).

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Investing can be complex, so Maxfield suggested consumers consider hiring a licensed financial adviser.

The Division of Securities suggests consumers read [a guide produced by Kiplinger Personal Finance](#) to help them choose an adviser who best fits their needs. The Division's Investor Protection Hotline can determine if the person is licensed to sell securities in Ohio, if any enforcement actions have been taken against them, and if the security has been properly registered with either federal or state regulators. To contact the hotline, call 877-683-7841.

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