



# AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

243 N. LINDBERGH BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63141 | 800.365.2219

October 13, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Madam Attorney General,

[As reported September 1](#) by the AOA, Doctors of Optometry have been under assault by data thieves for at least the past two months. The breach, whose impact appears to be focused on Doctors of Optometry and optometry students, has understandably left them reluctant to share personal data with state licensing entities and organizations that provide testing services for licensing programs. The breach and interruption to these vital activities has had a severe negative impact on the proper functioning of the profession and perpetuates an environment of fear and mistrust.

The AOA hopes that by (i) identifying and punishing those responsible for the theft; and (ii) reforming state licensing and testing requirements to address privacy concerns, the profession may begin to put this episode behind it and reduce the likelihood of any similar occurrence in the future. Accordingly, the AOA respectfully requests that the Department of Justice, acting through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, pursue an investigation to identify the data thieves responsible for this criminal act.

Very truly yours,

Michael A. Stokes  
General Counsel

Enclosure