



March 12, 2018

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned organizations urge your office to oppose H.J. Res. 122. This measure would repeal the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (Consumer Bureau) payday rule, which curbs the ability of payday and car-title lenders to trap consumers in an endless cycle of 300% interest debt. It is imperative that Congress oppose any effort to repeal or block the rule's protections against the payday lending debt trap, which often result in financial ruin.

At its core, the rule is based on the common-sense principle that lenders have a responsibility to determine whether a borrower has the ability to repay their loan without getting stuck in a cycle of unaffordable debt. This principle is particularly important for these high-cost loans where lenders require the power to seize a borrower's bank account or car. An ability-to-repay requirement is a sensible and sound approach and a principle that, according to a recent poll of likely voters, more than 70% of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support.

This rule is the culmination of over five years of stakeholder input and extensive research showing clear evidence of the harm caused by making these loans without regard to ability-to-repay. A large body of research has demonstrated that payday and car title loans are structured to create a long-term debt trap that drains consumers' bank accounts and causes significant financial harm, including delinquency and default, overdraft and non-sufficient funds fees, increased difficulty paying mortgages, rent, and other bills, loss of checking accounts, and bankruptcy. The lack of underwriting for ability-to-repay, high fees, and access to a borrower's checking account or car title enables lenders to repeatedly flip borrowers from one unaffordable loan to another. A large portion of borrowers eventually default, but often not before paying hundreds or even thousands of dollars in fees.

This is why the payday rule is necessary—to help ensure that lenders cannot trap borrowers—who are typically already significantly financially distressed—in a debt trap that leaves them only worse off. Repealing this rule would leave veterans, seniors, and communities of color at particular risk, because



they are often targeted by payday lenders who trap them in unaffordable high-cost loans. Additionally, the CRA measure would prevent the CFPB from issuing a similar rule in the future.

While 15 states plus the District of Columbia cap state interest rates at 36% or less, which is the most effective protection against the payday lending debt trap, the Consumer Bureau's rule provides critical protection in the 35 states that still permit these unaffordable debt trap loans.

H.J. Res. 122, by repealing the Consumer Bureau's common-sense rule, would give payday lenders a free pass to continue exploiting financially vulnerable Americans. We urge you to stand against predatory lenders by voting against this measure.

For more information, please contact Scott Astrada at the Center for Responsible Lending, scott.astrada@responsiblelending.org.

Sincerely,

National

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Workers (AFSCME)

Americans for Financial Reform

Allied Progress

Asset Building Strategies

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Consumer Action

Communications Workers of America

Consumers Union

Consumer Federation of America

Daily Kos

Demos

Ecumenical Poverty Institute

EMC Strategies

Franciscan Action Network



International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implementation Workers of America (UAW)

Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Mi Familia Vota

NAACP

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Association of Consumer Advocates

National Association of Previous Prisoners, Inc.

National Association of Social Workers

National CAPACD (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development)

National Community Investment Fund

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)

National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA)

National Partnership for Women & Families

People's Action Institute

Prosperity Now

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator

Public Citizen

Public Justice

The Rootstrikers Project at Demand Progress

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Sisters of Mercy South Central Community

Southern Poverty Law Center

TURN-The Utility Reform Network

UnidosUS



Union for Reform Judaism

US PIRG

Woodbury Fund

YWCA USA

9to5, National Association of Working Women

Alaska

ACLU of Alaska

Alaska Community Development Corporation

AK Children's Trust

AKPIRG

Northern Justice Project

Arkansas

Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending

Arizona

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Arizona Community Action Association

Arizona PIRG (Public Interest Research Group)

A New Leaf-Mesa Community Action Network

Campeños Sin Fronteras

Center for Economic Integrity

Gila County Community Services Division

Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition

Southern Arizona Grandparent Association

St. Vincent DePaul Society, Diocese of Tucson

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona



California

California Reinvestment Coalition

Colorado

The Bell Policy Center

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG)

Energy Outreach Colorado

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Association for Human Services

Connecticut Legal Services Inc.

Georgia

Georgia Watch

Green Forest Community Development Corporation (GFCDC)

Urban Asset Builders

Florida

Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.

Idaho

Idaho Community Action Network



Illinois

Active Alliance Counseling

Bailey's Café

BENEVOLENT

BIG: Blacks in Green

Center for Changing Lives

Center for Economic Progress

Chicago City Treasurer's Office

Community Interventions Institute, Inc.

Earthmover Credit Unions

Heartland Alliance

Heartland Human Care Services

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Housing Action Illinois

IFF

Illinois Building Group

Illinois PIRG

Karen Chan Financial Education & Consulting, LLC

LISC Chicago

Naviance Solutions

Northwest Side Housing Alliance

Peterson Healthcare Consulting, Inc.

Project IRENE

Powerpac

Southwest Organizing Project

Working Families

Woodstock Institute

YMCA Metropolitan Chicago



Indiana

Advantage Housing, Inc.

Brightpoint

Continuum Care Network, NWI Inc.

Cynthia R. Bauer, CPA, CGMA

Edna Martin Christian Center

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

Families First Indiana, Inc.

God's Helping Hand

Habitat for Humanity of Indiana

Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Indiana

Homestead CS

Hoosier Action

Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network

Indiana Association of United Ways

Indiana Catholic Conference

Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation

Indiana Institute of Working Families

Indiana Kentucky Synod of the ECLA

Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

Irvington Development Organization

John Boner Neighborhood Centers

KW Consultants LLC

Legacy Foundation, Inc.

Mary Miles Consulting

The Military/Veterans Coalition of Indiana

Neighborhood Vitalization Corporation

Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance



OneAmerica

Prosperity Indiana

Providence Housing Corporation

Reserve Officers Association, Department of Indiana

Thrive Alliance

TRI-CAD

Kansas

Labette County Assistance Center

Kentucky

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Maine

Maine Center for Economic Policy

Maine People's Alliance

Massachusetts

The Midas Collaborative

Maryland

Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Public Justice Center

Michigan

Community Economic Development Association of Michigan

Michigan Poverty Law Program



Minnesota

Exodus Lending

Mississippi

Covenant Faith Outreach Ministries

Missouri

Consumers Council of Missouri

Montana

AFSCME Montana

Agadas Integrated Wellness

Angela's Piazza

Billings First Congregational Church UCC

Billings Ground Swell

Bishop, Heenan & Davies Law Firm

Bitter Roo RC & D

Danielle Egnew Spiritual Advisory

Deering For Montana

Emmaus Campus Ministry

Fit Body Boot Camp Billings

Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council

Har Shalom Congregation

Harvest House Inc.

Homeward

IBEW 233

IBEW 768

MEA-MFT



Montana Fair Housing
Montana Organizing Project
Montana Trial Lawyers
Morrison, Sherwood, Wilson & Deola PPLP
MT-NWY Conference UCC
Neighborhood Works Montana
Royal Realty Co.
Rural Dynamic Inc.
Southwestern Montana Central Labor Council
Spa, Reflexology & Acupuncture
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Swift Building Lofts
University Congregational Church, UCC
Yellowstone County Democratic Central Committee

Nebraska

Voices for Children in Nebraska

North Carolina

Action NC
Alexander County Habitat for Humanity
Asheville Habitat for Humanity
Atkinson Collaborative Enterprise
Bonnie Wright and Associates
BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz
CCCS of Greater Greensboro
CCCS of WNC, Inc. DBA OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling
Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities
Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development



Chatham Habitat for Humanity
The Collaborative of NC
Community Empowerment Fund
Community Management Corporation
Ecusta Credit Union
Elizabeth City Habitat for Humanity
Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity
Financial Pathways of the Piedmont
Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley
Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County, NC
Habitat for Humanity of North Carolina, Inc.
Henderson County Habitat for Humanity
Mitchell-Yancey Habitat for Humanity
Navy-Marine Corps Society at Camp Lejeune
NC AFL-CIO
NC A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund, Inc.
NC A. Philip Randolph Institute
NC Council of Churches
NC National Organization for Women
North Carolina Assets Alliance
North Carolina Coalition on Aging
North Carolina Community Development Initiative
North Carolina Consumers Council
North Carolina Housing Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
North Carolina Rural Center



Person County Habitat for Humanity
Pisgah Legal Services
Salisbury CDC
SiX Action
Superior Consumer Advocacy Network

Working America NC

North Dakota

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota
Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency
Native American Development Center
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance
North Dakota Women's Network
Office of Senator Tim Matherm
Sacred Pipe Resource Center

New Jersey

La Case de Don Pedro
New Jersey Citizen Action
NJ NAACP
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell NJ

New Mexico

Interfaith Worker Justice-New Mexico
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-New Mexico
The New Mexico Center on Law and Policy
New Mexico Fair Lending Coalition



New Mexico Voices for Children
Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation

New York

Buffalo Urban League
Empire Justice Center
Hebrew Free Loan Society
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.
Mobilization for Justice, Inc.
NYLAG
New Yorkers for Responsible Lending
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Ohio

Policy Matters Ohio

Oklahoma

Cathedral of Hope UCC
Church of the Open Arms UCC
Fellowship Congregational UCC
Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Voices Organized in Civic Engagement (VOICE) Action Fund

Oregon

Archdiocese of Portland
CASA of Oregon



Rhode Island

Rhode Island Council of Churches

South Carolina

SC Appleseed

Tennessee

Tennessee Citizen Action

Texas

BCL of Texas

City Square

First Baptist Church of Crowell

Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas

Mosaic Fellowship

Texas Fair Lending Alliance

United Way of Greater Houston

Virginia

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

Virginia Organizing

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Wisconsin

WISDOM Inc.

WISPIRG



US Territories

Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

