Marketed as a way to help consumers pay the bills until their paychecks arrive, payday loans trap consumers in terrible cycles of debt, dragging their families more deeply into financial crisis. In return for a loan, the consumer provides the lender a post-dated check for the amount borrowed plus a fee. The check is held for 1 to 4 weeks (usually until the customer's payday) at which time the customer redeems the check by paying the face amount or allowing the check to be cashed. Payday lenders encourage their customers to get on a debt treadmill by refinancing one payday loan with another. The fees for payday loans are exorbitant with effective interest rates that can top 1,000%.

The repeal of usury laws has allowed payday loans and other predatory lending to flourish.

Reports

- Predatory Installment Lending in the States, May 2021
- A Larger and Longer Debt Trap?: Analysis of States’ APR Caps for a $10,000 Five-Year Installment Loan, October 2018 Press Release

More reports

Policy Briefs & Fact Sheets

- Brief: After Payday Loans: Consumers Find Better Ways to Cope with Financial Challenges, August 2021
- Brief: Why Cap Interest Rates at 36%?, August 2021
- Fact Sheet: State Rate Caps for $500 and $2,000 Loans, February 2020 (1-pager), updated March 2021
- Fact Sheet: Early Wage Access: A Good Option for Workers or a Fintech Payday Loan?, March 2020

More policy briefs & fact sheets

Comments & Testimony

- Comments to the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) re: Proposal to Expand Engagement of Credit Union Service Organizations, Apr. 30, 2021; press release, May 3, 2021
- Comments to California DFPI on general priorities, earned wage access products, and income share agreements, Mar. 15, 2021
- Comments to U.S. Treasury urging tighter criteria for CDFI certification, Nov. 5, 2020
- Comments to Treasury’s CDFI Fund on small dollar loan program, Sept. 11, 2020
- Group comments to the FTC re: Insufficient Order re: Rent-to-Own Market Swaps and
Suppressing Competition, March 25, 2020

More comments & testimony

Letters

- Group letter to OCC Opposing Proposed Rule to Pressure Banks to Support Predatory Lending, January 4, 2021
- Coalition letter to the CFPB Opposing Payday Disclosure Testing, December 14, 2020

More letters

Press Releases

- NCLC Advocates Applaud 36% National Rate Cap Bill to Curb High-Cost, Predatory Loans Across the Nation, July 29, 2021
- New 50-State Survey Finds Gains and Losses for Consumers in Larger, Longer High-Cost Predatory Loans, May 27, 2021
- CFPB Guts Curbs on Unaffordable 400% APR Payday Loans, July 7, 2020
- FDIC to Repeal 36% Rate Cap and Bank Payday Loan Guidance, but Banks Should Not Take the Bait, May 20, 2002

More press releases

Litigation

- Amicus brief: Community Financial Services Assoc. of America and Consumer Services Alliance of Texas v. CFPB and J. Mulvaney
  NCLC joined AFR, CRL and PC seeking to oppose the joint motion of the CFPB and the payday industry representatives to stay both the litigation and the implementation date of the rule.

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