



Consumer Federation of America

1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 200 * Washington, DC 20006

CFA on Financial Reform: A Daily Look at Reform Proposals and Their Effects on Consumers

April 26, 2010: Survey Says Public Support for Consumer Financial Agency is High and Has Grown Over the Last 9 Months

Dear Senator:

In a telephone [survey](#) conducted for the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) earlier this month, the Opinion Research Corporation found that **more Americans support a new consumer financial protection agency now (62 percent support) than did in July 2009 (57 percent support)**. In addition, 85 percent of those surveyed said that consumers need more effective protections against unfair and deceptive financial practices.

CFA urges the Senate to take up S. 3217, “The Restoring American Financial Stability Act” immediately and to ensure that it continues to include the following:

- An independent regulator overseeing the full range of consumer financial products and services, with a Presidentially-appointed director and autonomy to make budget, management and policy decisions.
- No exemptions for firms that offer financial products or services, including auto dealers.
- State cops on the beat. Allow state Attorneys General to enforce consumer regulator rules and prevent federal bank regulators from blocking states that try to enforce their own consumer protection laws.

We urge the Senate to strengthen provisions in the bill including:

- Protect the independence of the consumer regulator. Eliminate the “veto power” over the consumer regulator’s rules granted to bank regulators who failed to crack down on the reckless practices that led to our recent financial crisis.
- Prevent dangerous regulatory gaps. Give the consumer regulator authority to supervise and enforce rules regarding nonbanks of all sizes, including payday lenders, and to have “back up” enforcement and supervision authority regarding banks with assets of less than \$10 billion, if banking agencies fail to check for consumer rule compliance.

Bank lobbyists are swarming the Hill in an attempt to further weaken this bill. With millions of Americans struggling financially, now is the time to enhance consumer financial protections. Americans want and need these protections and are counting on the Senate to deliver them.

Sincerely,

Travis Plunkett
Legislative Director

Susan Weinstock
Director, Financial Reform Campaign