Since 1958
LEGAL AID CENTER
of Southern Nevada

July 9, 2026

U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Warren:

We are writing to express our concerns about the attacks on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada served nearly 200,000 vulnerable people in our community in 2025. Our Consumer Rights Project assisted many of those people standing as a shield against exploitation for those who have nowhere else to turn. Our team helped to restore dignity to lives damaged by deceit and injustices such as: stolen savings from predatory lenders, auto salespeople and auto repair fraud, the broken promise of solar power, the non-stop harassment of illegal debt collectors, the panic of losing a home to improper foreclosure, and the desperation of dealing with habitability issues, eviction or bankruptcy.

At a time when evictions and homelessness are at an all-time high in Clark County, Nevadans need help now more than ever.

The CFPB is important because:

1. It limits predatory lending and addresses problems that led to the financial crisis
2. It provides useful resources for promoting household financial stability
3. It levels the playing field between individual consumers and small businesses against large banks, debt collectors, credit bureaus, and other financial companies.

With the dismantling of the CFPB, it will be harder to help people like Agatha* (age 83) and her husband Bernard (age 79)*. Agatha and Bernard brought their only vehicle to an auto shop after it broke down. The shop advised the couple that the vehicle needed a new transmission, which would cost $2,900.

Three months later, the shop advised the couple that the vehicle needed additional repair work for $2,300. Because the couple could not afford such expensive repairs, Agatha signed two lease-to-own agreements with a third-party finance company, Safari.** She paid both agreements in full. The total amount she paid was $7,000, which included interest.

Frustrated that months had passed and they still didn't have a working vehicle after paying thousands of dollars to Safari, Agatha and Bernard came to Legal Aid Center for help.

Their Legal Aid Center attorney found that the transactions and the lease-to-own agreements violated Nevada law. The auto parts that Agatha "leased"—a transmission and rear differential—had no residual value and could not be returned. Thus, leasing these items to Agatha was a deceptive trade practice on the part of Safari. Nevada law prohibits the leasing of "goods intended for personal, family or household use, including, without limitation, pets, tires, batteries and hearing aids, if the living animal or good is expected to have not more than a de minimis residual financial value at the end of the term of the lease or contract."

Further, a lease for items and repairs that have no residual value is a disguised credit sale under the federal Truth in Lending Act ("TILA"), entitling an injured party to money damages.

In Nevada, deceptive trade practices are actionable as consumer fraud. The consumer fraud law allows an award of money damages, equitable relief (including rescission of the lease-to-own agreements), costs, and attorney's fees to the injured party.

Agatha and Bernard's attorney wrote a demand letter to Safari outlining the legal violations above. Safari ultimately refunded $7,000 to Agatha. The couple was very grateful for the outcome. Now they have enough money to buy a reliable used car or make a substantial down payment.

**Name changed to protect client's confidentiality*
***Name of opposing party changed*

While we were able to help Agatha and Bernard, only the CFPB can spot trends and engage in systemic work affecting every state. Dismantling the CFPB hurts people in our community and leaves them without protection from unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices. The CFPB arms people with information and tools to make smart financial decisions. Having one agency accountable for enforcing federal consumer financial laws is the best way to provide protection for consumers. When CFPB is operating as intended, we have the support we need to advocate for our clients.

Sincerely,

Christine Smith

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