



17th Annual High Cost Lending Summit

Thursday, January 7

1:00pm – 1:05pm ET

Welcome

Jack Gillis, Consumer Federation of America

Rachel Gittleman, Consumer Federation of America

1:05pm – 1:55 pm ET

Lessons from the Ground

Over the last few years, we have seen great strides in state and local policy to regulate the high cost loan industry, stop predatory lending, and protect consumers from the debt trap created by these high cost loans. These victories have taken many forms, including ballot initiatives, local ordinances, and state legislation. This panel will look at some of these recent achievements, lessons from those battles, life after payday lending, and the need to keep fighting to defend these victories.

Moderator

Candace Archer, Americans for Financial Reform

Panelists

Heidi Durand, Former City Council Member, Moorhead, MN/Minnesotans for Fair Lending

Corrine Rivera Fowler, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center

Ken Smith, Nebraska Appleseed

1:55pm – 2:45 pm ET

Recent Research in the Payday Lending Sphere

Members of our coalition have published ground-breaking, critical research over the last year. These panelists have researched the prevalence of payday lending to communities of color and other vulnerable populations, as well as the impact of recent legislation on high cost lending. These reports outline the need for further reform and legislation in the communities highlighted, as well as nationwide. Panelists will discuss their research, methodology, and how to replicate these practices in your state.

Moderator

Charla Rios, Center for Responsible Lending

Panelists

Brent Adams, Woodstock Institute

Dana Sweeney, Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Kalitha Williams, Policy Matters Ohio

2:45pm – 3:30pm ET

Town Hall

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, constant inaction by the federal government, and consistent regulatory rollbacks, consumers have faced unprecedented financial challenges and states have been forced to step in to protect consumers. Your organizations have been at the forefront of this work, and we want to hear from you about the work you've done, the work that's needed, and consumer stories from your state.

Moderator

Rachel Gittleman, Consumer Federation of America



17th Annual High Cost Lending Summit

Friday, January 8

1:00pm – 1:05pm ET

Welcome

Jack Gillis, Consumer Federation of America

1:05pm – 1:35pm ET

Keynote Address

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Senate Banking Committee

1:35pm – 2:25pm ET

What's Next for Federal Regulation and Legislation?

Over the past year we have seen the start of an unprecedented financial crisis caused by COVID-19, drastic rollbacks by federal financial regulators, a constantly changing federal legislative landscape, and finally, a dramatic shift in the administration. What does this mean for the Payday Rule, the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act, and more broadly, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau? This panel will delve into this question and begin to parse out priorities for the coming year and administration.

Moderator

Rachel Weintraub, Consumer Federation of America

Panelists

Morgan Harper, American Economic Liberties Project

Mike Litt, U.S. PIRG

Jan Singelmann, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Ranking Member, Sen. Sherrod Brown)

2:25pm – 3:15pm ET

The Threat of Fintech and Rent-A-Bank

Rent-a-bank lending presents the single greatest threat to the power of state governments to protect their consumers from predatory lending and independently regulate state interest rate caps. Over the last few years, we have seen fintech providers turn to creative ways to evade state laws, including rent-a-bank loans in various forms and wage advance products. These panelists will address the growing threat of fintech and rent-a-bank, as well as the recent moves by federal financial regulators to pave the way for these predatory lenders.

Moderator

Lauren Saunders, National Consumer Law Center

Panelists

Carrie Floyd, Lakeshore Legal Aid

Berneta Haynes, Georgia Watch

Beverly Brown Ruggia, New Jersey Citizen Action

3:15pm – 3:45 pm ET

State Strategy Sessions