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Topics in this issue:

- New Report Demonstrates Mortgage Deserts Exist Nationwide
- CFA Analysis Shows Insurance CEOs Get 27% Salary and Bonus Bump While Consumers See Premium Hikes and Non-Renewals
- The United States of Amnesia: Forgotten Lessons from the 2008 Financial Crisis
- The Federal Communications Commission is About to Unleash Unstoppable Robocalls



New Report Demonstrates Mortgage Deserts Exist Nationwide

By Sharon Cornelissen, Director of Housing

A new report from the Consumer Federation of



CFA Analysis Shows Insurance CEOs Get 27% Salary and Bonus Bump While Consumers See Premium Hikes and Non-Renewals

By Michael DeLong, Research and Advocacy Associate

***America, Mortgage Deserts:
Mapping Which Rural and
Urban Communities Remain
Left Behind by Mortgage***

Finance, shows that despite decades of federal policy efforts to reach historically excluded and underserved housing markets, mortgage access and use remains deeply uneven across the country. Mortgage deserts describe the bottom ten percent of urban counties and the bottom ten percent of rural counties nationwide, where the greatest share of homes are bought without a mortgage. The report found Black residents make up twice the share of the population in rural mortgage deserts compared to other rural areas (15 percent vs. 7 percent), and a larger share in urban mortgage deserts than in other urban communities (21 percent vs. 13 percent).

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**The United States of
Amnesia: Forgotten
Lessons from the 2008**

A new analysis from the Consumer Federation of America reveals that CEOs at the ten largest auto and homeowners insurance companies collected over \$134 million in compensation in 2024, even as consumers faced soaring premiums and widespread coverage losses. Homeowners insurance costs rose 24% from 2021 to 2024, outpacing inflation, while auto insurance costs climbed another 7% in the past year. Industry profits hit a record \$169 billion in 2024, contradicting insurers' claims that price hikes were necessary to stay afloat. CFA urges states to adopt stronger oversight of insurance rates, highlighting California's rule as a model for nationwide reform, which limits how much executive pay can be passed on to policyholders.

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**The Federal
Communications
Commission is About to
Unleash Unstoppable**

Financial Crisis

By Adam Rust, Director of Financial Services

The newest installment of Consumer Federation of America's "Patterns of Peril" series, *The United States of Amnesia: Forgotten Lessons from the 2008 Financial Crisis*, warns that policymakers are repeating the same mistakes that led to the last financial collapse. The report details how key safeguards created after 2008, like the Dodd-Frank Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are being eroded as regulators loosen oversight in the name of innovation. Today's fintechs, "buy now, pay later" lenders, and stablecoin issuers are exploiting regulatory gaps much like subprime lenders did before the crash. CFA calls on lawmakers to enforce consistent consumer protections across all financial products, before short memories and lax regulation spark another crisis.

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Robocalls

By Erin Witte, Director of Consumer Protection

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), under Commissioner Brendan Carr, is proposing to gut key protections against robocalls, including rules that let consumers tell companies to stop calling and require automated opt-out options for prerecorded telemarketing calls. Buried deep in an October 28 meeting agenda, the proposal would strip individuals and small businesses of some of the only effective tools they have to fight back against endless spam calls. Carr claims these rules are "outdated," but they're among the few that actually work to hold telemarketers accountable. If approved, this rollback would hand robocallers and corporations a victory — and leave Americans with even fewer ways to hang up on harassment.

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