

# 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

## STRONGLY OPPOSE

### Any Changes to CDFI Fund

#### Direct member benefits

CDFI Fund grants help credit unions expand affordable lending (small loans, mortgages, business credit) and financial services in underserved and low-income communities, directly increasing access to credit and economic opportunity for members.

#### Recent funding status

Congress appropriated roughly \$324 million for FY25 and FY26 to the CDFI Fund, and the Fund has announced smaller technical assistance awards with additional awards expected later.

#### Funding distribution challenges

OMB documents showed that under the Trump administration only a small portion of the authorized funds was apportioned, with no broad discretionary awards made for the main CDFI lending programs for a time, causing delays in payouts to credit unions and other CDFIs.

#### Trump administration actions

Budget proposals once sought to zero out or cut CDFI discretionary awards, and during the government shutdown it issued reduction-in-force notices eliminating CDFI Fund staff although these layoffs were later rescinded after industry and bipartisan congressional pressure.

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### Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA)

#### Government intervention in private payment networks.

The CCCA would require financial institutions to route transactions over government-mandated networks, disrupting secure, longstanding payment systems without evidence of consumer benefit.

#### Higher fraud and operational risk.

Alternative networks often lack comparable investments in fraud prevention, cybersecurity, and dispute resolution—raising fraud losses and compliance costs for credit unions.

#### Costs shift to consumers and small businesses.

Despite claims of lower fees, the CCCA does not guarantee savings and instead risks:

- New or higher account fees
- Increased costs for community-based financial institutions
- Reduced card rewards and benefits

#### Competitive disadvantage for credit unions.

Unlike large national banks, credit unions lack the scale to absorb higher compliance and infrastructure costs, placing member-owned institutions at a structural disadvantage.

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## STRONGLY SUPPORT

### Senate Legislation

#### **S. 522 — Credit Union Board Modernization Act (Sen. Hagerty)**

*What it does:* Modernizes outdated board meeting requirements by allowing greater flexibility in how often federally chartered credit union boards must meet.

*Why it matters:* Reduces unnecessary regulatory burden while preserving strong governance.

#### **S. 3017 — STEAMLINe Act (Sen. Kennedy)**

*What it does:* Raises the Currency Transaction Report (CTR) threshold from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

*Why it matters:* Reduces compliance burden without weakening safety and soundness.

#### **Expanding Access to Lending Options Act (Sen. Cramer)**

*What it does:* Authorizes the NCUA to raise the loan maturity cap from 15 to 20 years and allow 30-year loans for one- to four-unit residential properties.

*Why it matters:* Expands access to affordable credit and lowers monthly payments.

#### **S. 2545 — NCUA Central Liquidity Facility (CLF) Enhancements Act (Sen. Padilla)**

*What it does:* Permanently enhances emergency liquidity access through the CLF.

*Why it matters:* Strengthens credit union stability during periods of financial stress.

#### **S. 2704 — CDFI Fund Transparency Act (Sen. Daines)**

*What it does:* Requires annual congressional testimony on Treasury's CDFI Fund operations.

*Why it matters:* Reinforces credibility, transparency, and bipartisan support for the CDFI Fund.

#### **S. 2019 — Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams (TRAPS) Act (Sen. Cramer)**

*What it does:* Establishes a federal task force to combat payment scams through research, education, and coordinated enforcement.

*Why it matters:* Improves fraud prevention and member protection.

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### House Legislation

#### **H.R. 4167 — Expanding Access to Lending Options Act (Rep. Fitzgerald)**

*What it does:* Provides the NCUA Board flexibility to extend loan maturities for certain loans.

*Why it matters:* Supports more affordable, tailored lending options.

#### **H.R. 1799 — Financial Reporting Threshold Modernization Act (Rep. Loudermilk)**

*What it does:* Raises the Currency Transaction Report (CTR) threshold from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

*Why it matters:* Reduces compliance burden without weakening safety and soundness.

#### **H.R. 6536 — Rural Depositories Revitalization Study Act (Rep. Norman)**

*What it is:* Directs federal agencies to study the decline of rural depositories and the impact that decline has on access to credit and basic financial services.

*Why it matters:* Rural credit unions often serve as the last remaining local financial institution in many communities. This study can support future legislation on charter modernization, capital flexibility, or examination reform

#### **H.R. 4936 — Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams (TRAPS) Act (Rep. Nunn)**

*What it does:* House companion to establish a federal task force addressing payment scams.

*Why it matters:* Enhances coordinated efforts to protect consumers from fraud.