



Senator Richard Shelby, Chairman  
Senator Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member  
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Development

April 7, 2016

Dear Senators Shelby and Brown,

We are writing to express our strong support for the work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Our organizations speak for countless millions of Americans who are glad such an agency exists, grateful for what it has done to bring basic standards of fair play to the financial marketplace, and committed to its continued ability to carry out its crucially important mission.

Many lawmakers, including members of your committee, have attacked the Consumer Bureau and called for the enactment of bills and amendments that would gravely weaken it. In doing so, they ignore the will of the vast majority of voters, across party lines. To underscore that fact, we are delivering a flash drive containing petitions in which hundreds of thousands of Americans urge Congress to stand up for the CFPB and oppose efforts to weaken its authority and effectiveness by, for example, turning it from a director-led agency into a commission. These petitions were initiated by CREDO Action, ColorOfChange, Americans for Financial Reform, Other 98, Public Citizen, National Council of LaRaza, and National People's Action.

(The petition files on the flash drive contain 462,000 signatures. We can't give a precise figure on the total number of signers, because we have not attempted to account for people who signed more than one petition.)

In addition to the petitions contained on the flash drive, more than 200,000 people have signed [petitions urging Congress](#) not to try to undermine the CFPB through riders to spending bills or other "must-pass" legislation; and tens of thousands of people have signed petitions appealing

to lawmakers to back the Consumer Bureau in its specific efforts to [rein in the abuses of triple-digit interest, debt-trap consumer lenders; combat auto-lending practices that systematically lead to the overcharging of black and Hispanic borrowers; and end the used of forced arbitration clauses to strip consumers of their ability to take companies to court.](#)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Americans for Financial Reform

ColorOfChange

CREDO Action

National Council of LaRaza

National People's Action

Other 98

Public Citizen