



## Consumer Protections are at Risk Time for Action is Now

**Dear Supporters,**

Since the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act was enacted six years ago, members of Congress have attacked the law, including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), tirelessly. In this time, the Obama Administration has served as an important defender of consumers' rights, protecting against a number of bad bills that would have left them and their families susceptible to a whole host of abusive and predatory financial practices. Unfortunately for consumers, the next Congress and Administration are likely to work closely together to attack Dodd-Frank and the CFPB. There is a real danger that moderate Democrats will even join Republicans to undermine these protections.

While we can't predict the future of their actions, Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) "[Better Way](#)" proposal and Representative Jeb Hensarling's (R-TX) [Financial CHOICE Act](#) provide us a blueprint for how they will lead on blocking or rolling back established and much-needed consumer protection. At the top of their lists are two major threats:

- **Fundamental Reform of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**, which would result in the conversion of the CFPB into a commission while also stripping the Bureau of its objective independence and effectiveness by giving Congress total control of the Bureau's funding under the appropriations process, making it easier to tie the agency's hands.
- **Attacks on CFPB Rules and Regulations**, which would see hard-fought victories to provide [owners of manufactured homes with similar protections enjoyed by owners of site-built homes](#) and the CFPB's work to [curb predatory payday lending](#) completely wiped. In addition to these much-needed rules, we can expect attacks on the CFPB's work to protect consumers against predatory practices within the mortgage, prepaid, debt collection and arbitration markets.

This is unacceptable and yet, unfortunately, it just barely scratches the surface on what the future of consumer protections will look like. While Congress will be working to undo protections legislatively, that's just one half of the problem. The other half of the threat has to do with President-elect Trump's

appointments, who will be either unqualified to lead federal agencies or extremely dangerous in their spearheading of national policy or both.

Nowhere is that more evident than in President-elect Trump's pick for Treasury Secretary, Steve Mnuchin. Despite the fact that President-elect Trump ran a campaign that was, in part, based on an economic populism message, Steve Mnuchin and Trump share [similar goals](#) for [chipping](#) away at Dodd-Frank, the CFPB and consumer protections.

Even more alarming, Mnuchin's Wall Street career and his management of OneWest Bank—where he oversaw 36,000 foreclosures, [including one attack against a family who owed a whopping three cents](#)—raise great concerns about the future of consumer protections and working Americans. Moreover, his [bank's practice of racial discrimination](#) and [predatory practices](#) also raise alarms for those working to close the racial wealth divide.

Put simply, by rolling back financial regulations to where they were before the Great Recession, if not further, what Congress and the Trump Administration want to do is put the interest of industries, corporations and financial institutions over the interest of working individuals, consumers and families. CFED will not stand idly by while critical consumer protections, including those established by Dodd-Frank and the CFPB, are eliminated or rendered ineffective. We cannot fight this alone. We need your help beginning now.

### How we can fight back

Over the coming days and weeks, take a moment and [call your U.S. Senator](#) or make sure to speak to them when they come back home. Once you're connected to their office or speaking with them directly, ask them to take the following actions:

- Urge them to hold Steve Mnuchin accountable for his time at OneWest Bank and his bank's repeated [predatory behavior against](#) working Americans, seniors and people of color.
- Urge them to question Mnuchin on where he stands on consumer protections and affordable housing and why he took the actions he took while at OneWest, including foreclosing on tens of thousands of families.
- Urge them to question Mnuchin on why his Bank [racially discriminated people of color from the opportunity to own a home](#).

While there a number of steps between now and Mnuchin's confirmation, the fight to protect consumers must start now. Over the next few weeks and beyond, we will be reaching out to you to engage you in other actions to ensure consumers and families are not left behind at the expense of corporations and

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financial institutions. We hope you'll join us in these efforts as we work to build an opportunity economy that works for all.

Sincerely,

**CFED**

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**From:** CFED [<mailto:news@cfed.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 12:14 PM

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