



August 5, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, R. 322
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
SR-317, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
SH-711, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall
United States Senate
SR-479A, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO

Re: Express our strong concerns about the unintended consequences of the Credit Card Competition Act of 2022

Dear Sen. Schumer, Sen. McConnel, Sen. Durbin, and Sen. Marshall,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), our Board of Directors, and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong concerns about the unintended consequences of the Credit Card Competition Act of 2022. The bill seeks to expand the Durbin Amendment by requiring credit routing mandates on payment networks, small banks, and credit unions. **This could not only limit choice and competition in the marketplace but it could also disproportionately harm small and minority-owned businesses, while producing a windfall to the largest businesses.**

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than five million Hispanic-owned businesses that, combined, contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year. We also serve as a platform for our nationwide network of over 260 local Hispanic chambers of commerce.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent and nonpartisan government agency, recently released [a report](#) that found, among other things, that interchange regulations on debit card purchases, enacted through the Durbin Amendment, ranked as one of the most harmful laws negatively impacting the availability of fundamental banking services. Placing additional pricing mandates on financial institutions serving the millions of minority-owned small businesses could restrict critical lending these businesses continue to need and will reduce low-cost services, such as fraud prevention, that help these businesses serve their customers and drive revenue.

The sheer number of payment options now available at checkout, especially online, is an indication of the many options that are available to both consumers and merchants. Digital payments enabled small businesses to continue serving their customers during the pandemic, both in their local communities and online. Those businesses with access to digital payments over the last several years have been more resilient and better able to compete than those that did not.

According to an [Economic Brief](#) by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, many businesses saw price increases following the Durbin Amendment. As such, we believe that this proposed expansion of the Durbin Amendment would not result in lower fees for small minority-owned businesses. That is why we urge you to carefully consider the



unintended consequences that this proposed expansion could have on our most vulnerable small businesses.

Thank you for your service and partnership in supporting our minority owned businesses across the country. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We commend you for your leadership and look forward to a positive outcome on this important legislative matter.

Respectfully,

Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Jen Earle
CEO
National Association of Women Business Owners

CC: Sen. Sherrod Brown
Sen. Patrick J. Toomey