



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
US House of Representatives
H-323, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

I write in opposition to H.R. 5332, the Protecting Your Credit Score Act of 2019, which amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970 to make credit reports freely available that could contain inaccurate information. This legislation would hurt borrowers and lenders alike by decreasing the accuracy of credit reports, fueling litigation, jeopardizing consumer information security and increasing consumer confusion related to credit scores.

H.R. 5332 asks credit reporting companies to foot the bill to build a publicly accessible web portal allowing consumers to challenge negative information. When abused, for example, by the persistent credit repair industry, this tool would erase negative but accurate information regarding a borrower's history from being incorporated into credit reports and credit scores.

This legislation gives the trial bar a huge gift to sue American companies and will allow plaintiffs' attorneys to enrich themselves through frivolous class action settlements extracted at the expense of American businesses and jobs.

Additionally, H.R. 5332 empowers the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to oversee the creation of an online portal paid for by the private capital of credit reporting agencies. The Bureau will appoint a new ombudsman with enforcement powers to oversee all consumer complaints against credit reporting agency reports, regardless if the information in the reports correctly reflects a borrower's financial history.

H.R. 5332 also discloses personally identifiable information in the form of complete Social Security numbers, creating a ripe target for cyber theft, and does little to provide assurances that consumer information will be protected. Americans remain highly concerned about data breaches like those that have occurred at the Office of Personnel Management in 2015¹ and the Securities and Exchange Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system in 2016².

If H.R. 5332 were to be enacted, Congress will have effectively increased the burden on credit seekers at a time when it spared no expense to make credit readily available to businesses and institutions. **For these reasons, I oppose H.R. 5332 and encourage Representatives to vote against this legislation.**

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

¹ Koerner, Brendan, Wired, Oct. 23, 2016, *Inside the Cyber Attack that Shocked the US Government*, <https://www.wired.com/2016/10/inside-cyberattack-shocked-us-government/>

² Michaels, Dave, Wall Street Journal, Sept. 20, 2017, *SEC Discloses Edgar Corporate Filing System Was Hacked in 2016*, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/sec-discloses-edgar-corporate-filing-system-was-hacked-in-2016-1505956552>

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