

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1304

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Andrew Ferguson
Chair, Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear President Trump and Chair Ferguson:

We write to strongly oppose President Trump's unlawful attempt to fire Commissioners Alvaro Bedoya and Rebecca Slaughter from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and to urge the FTC to use its statutory authorities to address the "cost-of-living crisis" and "deliver emergency price relief" to hardworking families in accordance with President Trump's executive order (EO).¹

Federal law and Supreme Court precedent clearly prohibit the President from firing FTC Commissioners without cause. By statute, the President can only remove a Commissioner "for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office."² The Supreme Court unanimously upheld this provision in *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*, with conservative Justice George Sutherland writing that it is "plain under the Constitution that illimitable power of removal is not possessed by the President" to fire officers of independent agencies, and that the FTC "cannot in any proper sense be characterized as an arm or an eye of the executive."³

To date, the President has not provided any argument or evidence that the attempted firing of Mr. Bedoya and Ms. Slaughter was due to inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. And while the Administration contends that the statutory tenure protections for the FTC and other independent agencies are unconstitutional, its effort to overturn *Humphrey's Executor* simply underscores that as of now, the case remains controlling precedent, the statute remains good law, and the attempted firing of Mr. Bedoya and Ms. Slaughter is plainly unlawful.⁴

For this reason alone, the attempted termination of Mr. Bedoya and Ms. Slaughter should be reversed. But this action is also a giveaway for predatory corporations that drive up prices for working families and were finally facing serious regulatory scrutiny from the FTC. Mr. Bedoya

¹ The White House, "Delivering Emergency Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis," Executive Order, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/delivering-emergency-price-relief-for-american-families-and-defeating-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>.

² 15 U.S.C. § 41.

³ 295 U.S. 602, 628-630 (1935).

⁴ Letter from the Department of Justice to Speaker Mike Johnson, "Restrictions on the Removal of Certain Principal Officers of the United States" (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/oip/media/1389526/dl?inline>.

and Ms. Slaughter provided crucial votes for key FTC actions that benefit workers and consumers. Without them, the FTC would not have brought cases against pharmacy benefit managers for artificially inflating insulin drug prices, against John Deere to support farmers' right to repair agricultural equipment, or against Southern Glazer and Pepsi for price discrimination in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act.⁵ They were also instrumental in the FTC's regulatory efforts to (1) end junk fees, (2) allow greater worker freedom by banning non-compete agreements, (3) crack down on abusive subscription practices, and (4) ensure strong data privacy protections for children.⁶

The attempted firing of Mr. Bedoya and Ms. Slaughter imperils these and many other agency initiatives that have tangibly improved the lives of workers and consumers nationwide. Its effect is already becoming clear; for example, on March 18 the FTC wiped four years' worth of consumer guidance blogs from its website, including valuable warnings about firms being probed by the agency. It is notable that corporations currently under FTC investigation—including Microsoft, Meta, and OpenAI—collectively donated at least \$5 million toward President Trump's inauguration.⁷

Rather than simply serving the interests of wealthy corporations and donors, you should utilize the authority of the FTC to address the affordability crisis in this country and drive down costs for the American people. To do this, you should reinstate the Commissioners and work with them to build on the worker- and consumer-focused policy vision that Mr. Bedoya, Ms. Slaughter and former FTC Chair Lina Khan implemented.

⁵ FTC, "FTC Sues Prescription Drug Middlemen for Artificially Inflating Insulin Drug Prices," press release, September 20, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/09/ftc-sues-prescription-drug-middlemen-artificially-inflating-insulin-drug-prices>; FTC, "FTC, States Sue Deere & Company to Protect Farmers from Unfair Corporate Tactics, High Repair Costs," press release, January 15, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-states-sue-deere-company-protect-farmers-unfair-corporate-tactics-high-repair-costs>; FTC, "FTC Sues Southern Glazer's for Illegal Price Discrimination," press release, December 12, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/12/ftc-sues-southern-glazers-illegal-price-discrimination>; FTC, "FTC Sues PepsiCo for Rigging Soft Drink Competition," press release, January 17, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-sues-pepsico-rigging-soft-drink-competition>.

⁶ FTC, "Federal Trade Commission Announces Bipartisan Rule Banning Junk Ticket and Hotel Fees," press release, December 17, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/12/federal-trade-commission-announces-bipartisan-rule-banning-junk-ticket-hotel-fees>; FTC, "FTC Announces Rule Banning Noncompetes," press release, April 23, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/04/ftc-announces-rule-banning-noncompetes>; FTC, "Federal Trade Commission Announces Final 'Click-to-Cancel' Rule Making It Easier for Consumers to End Recurring Subscriptions and Memberships," press release, October 16, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/10/federal-trade-commission-announces-final-click-cancel-rule-making-it-easier-consumers-end-recurring>; FTC, "FTC Finalizes Changes to Children's Privacy Rule Limiting Companies' Ability to Monetize Kids' Data," press release, January 16, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-finalizes-changes-childrens-privacy-rule-limiting-companies-ability-monetize-kids-data>.

⁷ Makena Kelly, "FTC Removes Posts Critical of Amazon, Microsoft, and AI Companies," WIRED, March 18, 2025, <https://www.wired.com/story/federal-trade-commission-removed-blogs-critical-of-ai-amazon-microsoft/>; Letters from Senators Elizabeth Warren and Michael Bennett to Technology Company CEOs, January 17, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letters_on_big_tech_donations_to_trump_inaugural_fund.pdf.

An Affirmative Vision for the FTC

Over 60% of Americans believe the Trump administration is not doing enough to lower the prices of goods and services,⁸ despite President Trump’s campaign promise to “immediately bring prices down”⁹ and voters’ expectations that he would address their concerns.¹⁰ In fact, inflation has already increased at a greater than expected rate,¹¹ consumer sentiment is at a seven-month low,¹² and Americans have cut back spending—the largest drop in four years.¹³

Because economic power continues to consolidate,¹⁴ there is persistent inequality,¹⁵ a challenging labor market,¹⁶ and ultimately an affordability crisis.¹⁷ It is imperative for the FTC to act quickly. Below, we lay out priorities that the Commission can address immediately.

Food

Food prices continue to be a concern for millions of Americans. Since 2019, prices have increased over 30%,¹⁸ and Americans are spending more of their income on food than they have

⁸ Sarah Fortinsky, “62 percent say Trump not doing enough to address high costs of goods: Poll,” The Hill, February 20, 2025, <https://thehill.com/business/5155128-donald-trump-high-costs-lower-prices-survey/>.

⁹ Anthony Zurcher and Tom Geoghegan, “Has Trump kept his day one promises?,” BBC News, February 22, 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crlx8w5wdl0o>.

¹⁰ CNN, “Election 2024: Exit polls,” <https://www.cnn.com/election/2024/exit-polls/national-results/general/president/0>.

¹¹ Anthony Zurcher and Tom Geoghegan, “Has Trump kept his day one promises?,” BBC News, February 22, 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3d57zm9m0po>.

¹² Jarrell Dillard, “US Consumer Sentiment Drops to Seven-Month Low on Price Worries,” Bloomberg, February 7, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-07/us-consumer-sentiment-drops-to-seven-month-low-on-price-worries>.

¹³ Lucia Mutikani, “US consumer spending posts first drop in almost two years,” Reuters, February 28, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/us-consumer-spending-falls-january-monthly-inflation-rises-2025-02-28/>.

¹⁴ The American Economic Liberties Project, “Confronting America’s Concentration Crisis: A Ledger of Harms and Framework for Advancing Economic Liberty for All,” August 6, 2020, <https://www.economicliberties.us/our-work/confronting-americas-concentration-crisis-a-ledger-of-harms-and-framework-for-advancing-economic-liberty-for-all/>.

¹⁵ Ana Hernandez Kent and Lowell R. Ricketts, “The State of U.S. Wealth Inequality,” Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, October 22, 2024, <https://www.stlouisfed.org/community-development-research/the-state-of-us-wealth-inequality>.

¹⁶ See, e.g., Economic Policy Institute (EPI), “The Productivity-Pay Gap,” December 2024, <https://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/>; Adewale A. Maye, Daniel Perez, and Margaret Poydock, “Misclassifying workers as independent contractors is costly for workers and states,” EPI, January 22, 2025, <https://www.epi.org/publication/misclassifying-workers-2025-update/> and Derek Saul, “U.S. Added 151,000 Jobs As Unemployment Rose to 4.1% in February,” Forbes, March 7, 2025, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dereksaul/2025/03/07/us-added-151000-jobs-as-unemployment-rose-to-41-in-february/>.

¹⁷ See, e.g., Kamaron McNair, “Nearly half of Americans say they live paycheck to paycheck,” CNBC, November 19, 2024, <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/11/19/bank-of-america-nearly-half-of-americans-live-paycheck-to-paycheck.html>; Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation got worse with rising prices on groceries and gasoline,” AP News, February 12, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/inflation-economy-federal-reserve-48e77a855078b37bf3ccd58c9db94c82> and Cassie Bottorff, “Paycheck-to-paycheck nation: 59% of Americans wouldn’t cover a \$1,000 expense with savings,” Fortune, February 6, 2025, <https://fortune.com/article/bankrate-emergency-savings-report-2025/>.

¹⁸ Taryn Phaneuf, “Food Prices Climbed 31% in 6 Years. Here’s Why,” NerdWallet, February 12, 2025, <https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/finance/price-of-food/>.

in three decades.¹⁹ The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that prices of food will increase 3.4% in 2025 alone.²⁰ And for certain foods, these price hikes are even more drastic. Eggs were 53% more expensive in February 2025 than the year before,²¹ and the USDA expects the price to increase another 41% this year.²²

There are several reasons for a rise in food prices, however, a primary driver that the FTC can and should address is extreme consolidation within the food supply chain, particularly among retailers and producers.²³

The FTC has already been successful in addressing food supply chain consolidation. First, the Commission used its Section 6(b) authority²⁴ to investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic supply chain disruptions impacted competition in the grocery supply chain. The FTC found that grocery retail profits increased and remained high, with large retailers utilizing their dominance to get a better deal.²⁵ And more recently, the Commission successfully blocked the proposed Kroger-Albertsons merger,²⁶ which would have eliminated competition, weakened union bargaining power, and ultimately raised prices.²⁷

We urge you to continue these efforts by using the FTC's Section 6(b) authority to investigate grocery prices and the food supply chain. Retail prices and company profits continue to outpace inflation while volumes are down.²⁸ The Commission should investigate potential price gouging or price-fixing. This may include complementary actions to the DOJ's

¹⁹ Anne Marie Lee, "Americans are spending the biggest share of their income on food in 3 decades," CBS News, February 26, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/inflation-consumer-spending-food-and-restaurants-disposable-income-2024/>.

²⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), "Food Price Outlook, 2025," February 25, 2025, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings>.

²¹ Christopher Rugaber, "U.S. inflation increases to 3 percent, groceries and gasoline prices heading higher," PBS News, February 12, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/u-s-inflation-increases-to-3-percent-groceries-and-gasoline-prices-heading-higher>.

²² USDA, "Food Price Outlook, 2025," February 25, 2025, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings>.

²³ Krista Brown, "Supermarket Squeeze: The Real Costs of the Kroger and Albertsons Deal," The American Economic Liberties Project, November 2023, https://www.economicliberties.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/20231109-AELP-Supermarket-Brief_v3.pdf; Danielle Kaye and Julie Creswell, "Egg Prices Are Soaring. Bird Flu May Not Be the Only Culprit," The New York Times, February 25, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/25/business/egg-prices-bird-flu-producers.html>.

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 46(b).

²⁵ FTC Staff, "Feeding America in a Time of Crisis: The United States Grocery Supply Chain and the COVID-19 Pandemic," FTC, March 21, 2024, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/p162318supplychainreport2024.pdf.

²⁶ FTC, "Statement on FTC Victory Securing Halt to Kroger, Albertsons Grocery Merger," press release, December 10, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/12/statement-ftc-victory-securing-halt-kroger-albertsons-grocery-merger>.

²⁷ Errol Schweizer, "Why the Kroger-Albertsons Merger Was Blocked," Forbes, December 11, 2024, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/errolschweizer/2024/12/11/why-the-kroger-albertsons-merger-was-blocked/>; Adrienne Crezo, "Merging grocery giants threaten Americans' food security," Center for Science in the Public Interest, February 23, 2024, <https://www.cspinet.org/cspi-news/merging-grocery-giants-threaten-americans-food-security>.

²⁸ Errol Schweizer, "Why A Price Gouging Ban Isn't So Crazy After All," Forbes, September 4, 2024, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/errolschweizer/2024/09/04/why-a-price-gouging-ban-isnt-so-crazy-after-all/>; Danielle Kaye and Julie Creswell, "Egg Prices Are Soaring. Bird Flu May Not Be the Only Culprit," The New York Times, February 25, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/25/business/egg-prices-bird-flu-producers.html>.

investigation of egg producers,²⁹ including investigating other markets in the egg supply chain, such as hatcheries. The FTC’s 6(b) authority allows the Commission to conduct industry investigations that go beyond the DOJ’s subpoena authority. The Commission should also investigate slotting fees—the price retailers require manufacturers to pay for shelf space—to understand how they are used and crack down on anticompetitive behaviors.³⁰

Housing

The cost of housing continues to be a significant concern for millions of Americans. Today, nearly half of all U.S. renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing,³¹ and Americans are waiting even longer to purchase their first home, with the average age of first-time buyers in the U.S. reaching a record high of 56 years old.³² Over the last two decades, housing costs have risen faster than income, and more than 90% of Americans live in an area where this has been the case.³³

Economic downturns—including the 2008 financial crisis and COVID-19 pandemic—and actions the government takes to address them³⁴ create an environment for consolidation and the transfer of wealth from individual families to large investment companies in housing.³⁵ As such, institutional investors have purchased homes at an accelerated rate, while five homebuilding companies dominate the market.³⁶ The FTC can and should act.

Corporate Ownership

Private equity, hedge funds, and other large institutional investors have purchased

²⁹ Lauren Hirsch, Danielle Kaye and Julie Creswell, “U.S. Investigates Egg Producers Over Soaring Prices,” *The New York Times*, March 7, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/07/business/us-egg-prices-investigation.html>.

³⁰ FTC Staff, “Report on the Federal Trade Commission Workshop on Slotting Allowances and Other Marketing Practices in the Grocery Industry,” FTC, February 2001, https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/report-federal-trade-commission-workshop-slotting-allowances-and-other-marketing-practices-grocery/slottingallowancesreportfinal_0.pdf.

³¹ Samantha Delouya, “Nearly half of US renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs,” *CNN*, September 12, 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/12/economy/us-housing-costs-survey/index.html>.

³² Mike Winters, “The average age of U.S. homebuyers jumps to 56—homes are ‘wildly unaffordable’ for young people, real estate expert says,” *CNBC News*, November 4, 2024, <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/11/04/homebuyer-average-age-rises-to-56-amid-rising-homeownership-costs.html>.

³³ U.S. Department of Treasury, “Rent, House Prices, and Demographics,” June 24, 2024, <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/rent-house-prices-and-demographics>.

³⁴ This includes the Federal Reserve Bank changing the fund rate. *See, e.g.*, John McManus, “Fed Cut Creates A Perfect Storm for Homebuilding’s M&A Deal Flow,” *The Builders Daily*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.thebuildersdaily.com/fed-cut-creates-a-perfect-storm-for-homebuildings-m-a-deal-flow/>.

³⁵ *The Washington Times*, “44% of flipped single-family home purchases were by private investors in 2023,” March 15, 2024, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/mar/15/in-shift-44-of-all-single-family-home-purchases-were/>; Gretchen Morgenson, “Senators take aim at big private equity landlords as rents soar,” *NBC News*, October 24, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/senators-take-aim-big-private-equity-landlords-rents-soar-rcna176793>; Matthew Graham, “Homebuilder Confidence Consolidation Continues,” *Mortgage News Daily*, January 17, 2025, <https://www.mortgagenewsdaily.com/news/01172025-builder-confidence-nahb-hmi>.

³⁶ Private Equity Stakeholder Project, “New tool tracks private equity ownership of manufactured housing communities across U.S.,” June 11, 2024, <https://pestakeholder.org/news/new-tool-tracks-private-equity-ownership-of-manufactured-housing-communities-across-u-s/>; National Association of Home Builders, “Who Are the Leading Home Builders in the U.S.?,” blog, June 2024, <https://www.nahb.org/blog/2024/06/pro-builder-housing-giants>.

thousands of single-family homes,³⁷ apartments,³⁸ and mobile home communities³⁹ in anticipation of “rent growth.”⁴⁰ By 2030, institutional investors are expected to own over 40% of single-family homes.⁴¹ These firms increase rents, fees, and neglect upkeep, or force out existing tenants to replace them with tenants who are willing or able to pay higher rents.⁴²

Consolidation and Restricted Housing Supply

Home ownership has become more expensive in part due to consolidation in homebuilding. In 1994, the ten largest home builders held 10% market share. Today, five big builders⁴³ dominate the market, with more than 51% of new home construction being controlled by these companies.⁴⁴

The EO directs agencies to “lower the cost of housing and expand [the] housing supply.”⁴⁵ The FTC should take action to tackle consolidation that affects renters and home ownership, including by investigating unfair, deceptive, or anticompetitive practices of institutional investors to increase their wealth at the expense of the public and examining how consolidation in homebuilding has kept supply artificially restricted.

Labor

While unemployment remains low, the labor market continues to be challenging for millions of workers. Nearly half of all workers consider themselves underemployed⁴⁶—working at a job that doesn’t fully utilize their skills or education, or generally working less than desired—while an estimated 30% of workers are misclassified as independent contractors, which shifts

³⁷ The Washington Times, “44% of flipped single-family home purchases were by private investors in 2023,” March 15, 2024, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/mar/15/in-shift-44-of-all-single-family-home-purchases-we/>.

³⁸ Heather Vogell, “When Private Equity Becomes Your Landlord,” ProPublica, February 7, 2022, <https://www.propublica.org/article/when-private-equity-becomes-your-landlord>.

³⁹ Private Equity Stakeholder Project, “New tool tracks private equity ownership of manufactured housing communities across U.S.,” June 11, 2024, <https://pestakeholder.org/news/new-tool-tracks-private-equity-ownership-of-manufactured-housing-communities-across-u-s/>.

⁴⁰ Will Parker, “KKR Makes its Biggest Foray Into Apartments, Betting on Rising Rents,” The Wall Street Journal, June 25, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/real-estate/kkr-makes-its-biggest-foray-into-apartments-betting-on-rising-rents-94213297>.

⁴¹ Leslie Shaver, “Institutions to own 40% of SFRs by 2030,” Multifamily Dive, August 17, 2022, <https://www.multifamilydive.com/news/institutions-to-own-40-of-sfrs-by-2030/629907/>.

⁴² Will Parker, “KKR Makes its Biggest Foray Into Apartments, Betting on Rising Rents,” The Wall Street Journal, June 25, 2024, <https://www.propublica.org/article/when-private-equity-becomes-your-landlord>.

⁴³ National Association of Home Builders, “Who Are the Leading Home Builders in the U.S.?,” blog, June 2024, <https://www.nahb.org/blog/2024/06/pro-builder-housing-giants>.

⁴⁴ Lance Lambert, “Publicly traded U.S. homebuilders purchased 66% of U.S. finished lots last quarter,” ResiClub Analytics, December 10, 2024, <https://www.resiclubanalytics.com/p/publicly-traded-u-s-homebuilders-purchased-65-of-u-s-finished-lots-last-quarter-according-to-john-bu>; Lance Lambert, “Giant homebuilders are eating up more market share—just look at Lennar,” ResiClub Analytics, November 22, 2024, <https://www.resiclubanalytics.com/p/giant-homebuilders-are-eating-up-more-market-share-just-look-at-lennar>.

⁴⁵ Supra, note 1.

⁴⁶ Venus Gentile, “How to Know if You’re Underemployed and What You Should Do About It,” Monster, <https://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/millions-americans-underemployed-0820>.

costs from CEOs to workers and strips them of legal protections.⁴⁷ And as technology advances and productivity increases, worker compensation remains stagnant.⁴⁸ The FTC has the authority to crack down on deceptive or unfair employment practices and should urgently do so.

We are encouraged by some recent FTC actions regarding workers. The Commission unanimously agreed to crack down on illegal no-hire agreements that “limit[s] workers’ ability to negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, and improved working conditions.”⁴⁹ And under Chair Ferguson, the Commission has launched a joint task force to protect American workers.⁵⁰

The EO directs agencies to “create employment opportunities for American workers” including by bringing “discouraged workers” into the labor force.⁵¹ To do so, we urge the Commission to investigate and crack down on illegal labor violations, including non-compete agreements,⁵² training repayment agreement provisions (TRAPs),⁵³ and any other types of labor restrictive agreements which may discourage workers from entering the labor force or starting a new business.

The Commission should also investigate other employment practices that may be unfair, deceptive, or anticompetitive, including the misclassification of workers as independent contractors, wage theft, and discriminatory hiring practices.

Financial Services

Americans today have a record high \$18 trillion in household debt⁵⁴—including \$1.2 trillion in credit card balances and \$1.7 trillion in auto loan balances—with this number growing since the financial crisis.⁵⁵ At the same time, loan delinquencies are on the rise, particularly for auto loans.⁵⁶

⁴⁷ National Employment Law Project, “Independent Contractor Misclassification Imposes Huge Costs on Workers and Federal State Treasuries,” October 2020, <https://www.nelp.org/app/uploads/2017/12/Independent-Contractor-Misclassification-Imposes-Huge-Costs-Workers-Federal-State-Treasuries-Update-October-2020.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Economic Policy Institute (EPI), “The Productivity-Pay Gap,” December 2024, <https://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/>.

⁴⁹ FTC, “FTC Orders Building Service Contractors to Stop Enforcing a No-Hire Agreement,” press release, January 6, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-orders-building-service-contractors-stop-enforcing-no-hire-agreement>.

⁵⁰ FTC, “FTC Launches Joint Labor Task Force to Protect American Workers,” press release, February 26, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/02/ftc-launches-joint-labor-task-force-protect-american-workers>.

⁵¹ Supra, note 1.

⁵² FTC, “Noncompete Rule,” <https://www.ftc.gov/legal-library/browse/rules/noncompete-rule>.

⁵³ J.J. Prescott, Stewart Schwab, and Evan Starr, “First Evidence on the Use of Training Repayment Agreements in the US Labor Force,” ProMarket, March 27, 2024, <https://www.promarket.org/2024/03/27/first-evidence-on-the-use-of-training-repayment-agreements-in-the-us-labor-force/>.

⁵⁴ Elizabeth Schulze, “Americans’ credit card debt reaches new record high: New York Federal Reserve,” ABC News, February 13, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/americans-credit-card-debt-reaches-new-record-high/>.

⁵⁵ New York Federal Reserve, “Household Debt Balances Continue Steady Increase; Delinquency Transition Rates Remain Elevated for Auto and Credit Cards,” Center for Microeconomic Data, Q4 2024, <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc>.

⁵⁶ Robert Adams, Vitaly Bord, and Haja Sannon, “Rising Auto Loan Delinquencies and High Monthly Payments,” Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, September 26, 2024, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/rising-auto-loan-delinquencies-and-high-monthly->

Insurance claim denials are exacerbating the debt crisis. Across health, flood, fire, and other disaster insurances, millions of people are having their claims denied or being dropped from coverage by concentrated insurance companies.⁵⁷

We urge the Commission to open a public comment docket or request for information to study the causes and effect of household debt on American families, including insurance denials and dropped coverage.


Gambling

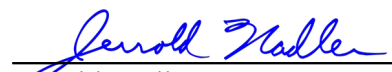
The recent legalization of sports betting and subsequent dominance of just two companies—DraftKings and FanDuel⁵⁸—have also exacerbated the debt crisis. Online sports gambling is leading to higher credit card balances and more frequent overdraft transactions, ultimately hurting consumers via junk fees.⁵⁹

We urge the Commission to open a public comment docket or request for information to study the causes and effect of gambling on American families, including online sports gambling.

Our country continues to experience a cost-of-living crisis, and the American people expect their leaders to take real action on their behalf to drive down prices and hold predatory actors accountable. Unlawfully attempting to fire two Commissioners dedicated to combating monopoly and fraud does nothing to make their lives better. We urge you to reverse course and ensure that the FTC fights for workers and consumers, not billionaires.

Sincerely,


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

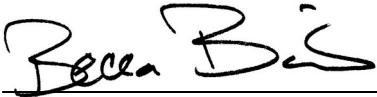

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

[payments-20240926.html](#).

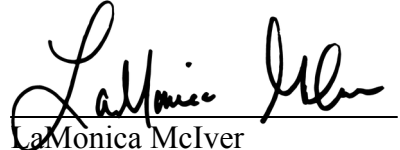
⁵⁷ Michael N. Brown, "The Hidden Crisis of Insurance Denial Rates: How Americans Are Paying the Price," Fellow Health Partners, February 3, 2025, <https://fellowhealthpartners.com/the-hidden-crisis-of-insurance-denial-rates-how-americans-are-paying-the-price/>; Laurence Darmiento and Summer Lin, "First, they lost their home insurance. Then, L.A. fires consumed their homes," LA Times, January 12, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2025-01-12/california-homeowners-are-getting-cancelled-by-their-insurers-and-the-reasons-are-dubious>.

⁵⁸ Jill Dorson, "The Race for Third," Global Gaming Business Magazine, September 24, 2024, <https://ggbmagazine.com/article/the-race-for-third/>.


⁵⁹ Alicia Adameczyk, "More Americans are going into debt to gamble on sports—and many see it as investment," Forbes, January 28, 2025, <https://fortune.com/2025/01/28/sports-betting-gambling-debt-growing-problem/>.



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



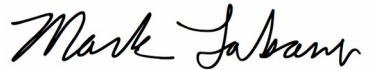
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



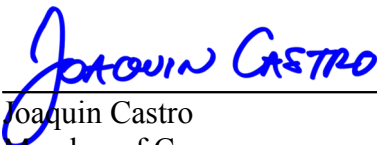
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



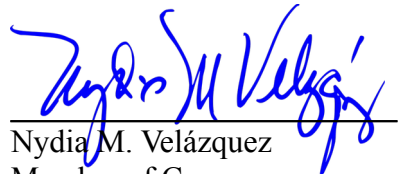
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



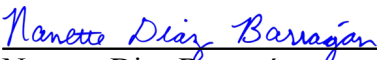
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



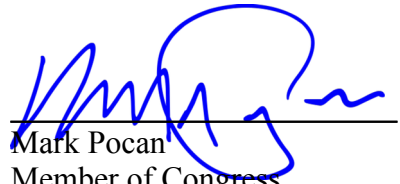
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress




Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



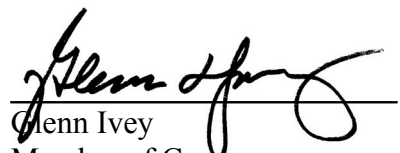
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



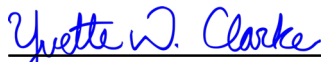
Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



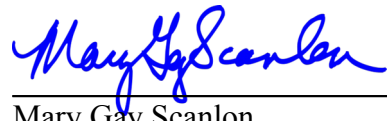
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



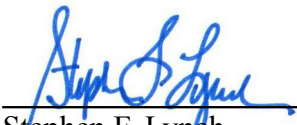
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



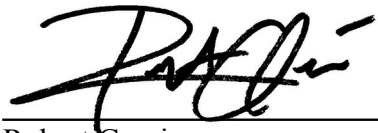
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



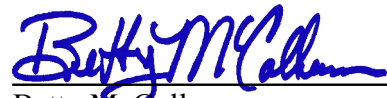
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



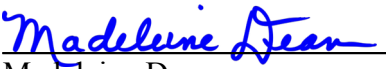
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



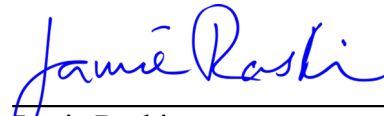
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



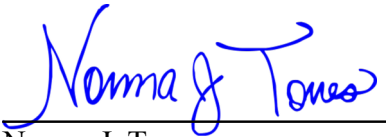
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



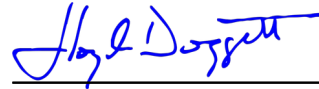
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



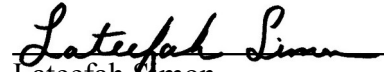
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



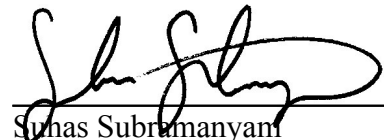
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



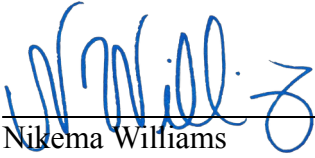
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



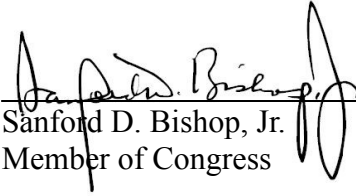
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



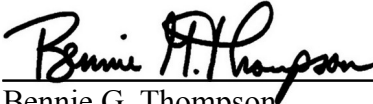
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



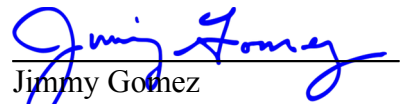
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



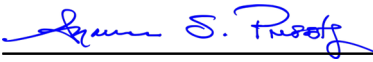
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



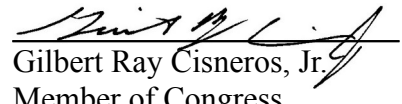
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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John B. Larson
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