

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Rohit Chopra
Director
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Director Chopra:

We write in strong and continued support of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB or "the Bureau") proposed rulemaking to remove medical debt from credit reports, prohibit consumer reporting agencies from sharing medical debt information with creditors, and ban lenders from repossessing medical devices, like prosthetics.

In March 2024, my colleagues and I wrote to you, urging the Bureau to move forward with a rule to remove medical debt from credit reports and credit underwriting considerations.¹ In June 2024, during your semi-annual appearance in front of the Senate Banking Committee, we stressed the importance of finalizing the Bureau's proposed rule.² Today, as the Bureau continues with an impressive record of protecting American consumers, we encourage the Bureau to finalize this rule and provide critical relief to the 15 million Americans with unjustly lowered credit scores due to medical debt.³

Finalizing the rule would protect families and keep them from being unjustly penalized for seeking medical care. This rule would provide vital protections: It would bar lenders from broadly using information about medical debt to make credit eligibility determinations, prohibit the inclusion of medical debt on credit reports, prohibit creditors from repossessing medical devices, and recognize the unique nature of medical debt and not penalize people for seeking treatment and care.

¹ Letter from Senators Brown, Warnock, Smith, Butler, Fetter, Reed, Warren, Murphy, Lujan, and Murphy to Director Rohit Chopra, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (March 21, 2024), https://www.warnock.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/medical_debt_letter-3-21.pdf

² Press Release, *Following Push to Biden Administration, Senator Reverend Warnock Stresses the Importance of Removing Medical Debt from Credit Reports During Senate Banking Hearing* (June 13, 2024), <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/watch-following-push-to-biden-administration-senator-reverend-warnock-stresses-the-importance-of-removing-medical-debt-from-credit-reports-during-senate-banking-hearing/>

³ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Prohibition on Creditors and Consumer Reporting Agencies Concerning Medical Information (Regulation V), 89 Fed. Reg. 51682 (June 18, 2024).

We once again thank you for your continued and extensive efforts protecting Americans from financial harm. The proposed rule is far too important to remain unsettled any longer. The rule would protect millions of people across the nation and we respectfully urge you to swiftly finalize this rule.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs