

Taskforce of Federal Consumer Financial Law Talking Points

Thanks and Acknowledgments

- The Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law (Taskforce) and the Bureau are grateful for the tremendous support and insights offered by a wide range of stakeholders. This includes:
 - consumer groups and trade associations who helped scope the report and formulate the Request for Information (RFI);
 - all respondents to the RFI who helped highlight the necessity of some recommendations or helped lead the Taskforce to reject others;
 - our state and federal regulator partners who met with the Taskforce over a series of twelve meetings to help inform the report and its recommendations;
 - members of the Bureau's advisory committees that provided feedback which assisted the Taskforce's work; and
 - the Bureau's dedicated and professional staff for meeting with the Taskforce to help inform them of the Bureau's work, opportunities to improve our mission, and feedback that helped improve the overall quality of the report.

Taskforce Overview

- The Bureau will be publishing the final report of the Taskforce on January 5, 2021, split into two volumes.
- The Taskforce has spent the year examining the existing legal and regulatory environment facing consumers and financial services providers
 - This review included in-depth meetings with key stakeholders within the Bureau, at other federal financial regulatory agencies, and at state regulatory agencies. The review also included soliciting feedback from the public through an RFI and a public hearing.
- The Taskforce enthusiastically engaged the external stakeholders via a listening session with trade and consumer groups, via an RFI, a public listening session with the combined advisory boards, a public listening session with a panel of distinguished experts, and over 12 engagements with other State and Federal regulators.
- The report consists of research and analysis focusing on:
 - harmonizing, modernizing, and updating Federal consumer financial laws, including implementing regulations;
 - analyzing ways to improve consumer understanding of markets and products; and

- identifying potential conflicts or inconsistencies in existing regulations and guidance.
- The report is split into two volumes:
 - Volume I contains the research and analysis conducted by the Taskforce.
 - Volume II contains the recommendations of the Taskforce to strengthen consumer financial protection law.

Volume I

- Volume I consists of 13 chapters providing an overview of the history of consumer credit, regulation, and special topics in consumer finance; and highlighting problems, areas of needed inquiry, and opportunities for the future.
- The chapters explore the areas of small dollar credit, consumer disclosures, competition, innovation, financial inclusion, privacy and data security, financial literacy, consumer protection tools, and the accompanying regulatory framework.

Volume II

- Volume II consists of approximately 100 recommendations directed toward the Bureau, Congress, states, and other federal financial regulators.
- The Taskforce's recommendations focus specifically on resolving conflicting requirements or inconsistencies, reducing unwarranted regulatory burdens in light of market or technological developments, improving consumer understanding of markets and products, and identifying gaps in knowledge that should be addressed through future Bureau research.
- Key themes of the recommendations include: lowering costs for consumers, increasing competition, expanding access to credit, protecting consumers, reducing existing friction in various markets, eliminating outdated or counterproductive regulations, encouraging principles-based regulatory approaches, spurring innovation, and understanding the future of financial products.
- The recommendations in Volume II of this report are not binding but are instead a blueprint for stakeholders to improve the financial regulatory system. The Bureau's Director will determine which, if any, recommendations to implement, accept, or advocate for Congress and other regulators to implement or accept.