



The CFPA and Small Businesses

Think Your Small Business Can Escape It? Think Again.

We know what you're thinking. You're not a bank, or a credit card company, or a financial institution. So the so-called "Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act" (CFPA) doesn't apply to you, right? **Wrong.**

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's authority extends far beyond banks or bank-like institutions. It would have the authority to regulate hundreds of thousands of businesses that have little to do with consumer finance and had nothing to do with the financial crisis. And businesses which don't actually offer consumer financial products, but are "service providers," broadly and vaguely defined, to institutions that offer consumer financial products or services would be subject to new regulation.

Examples of businesses that could now be covered include:

- Doctors and Dentists
- Software Companies
- Colleges, Universities, and other Schools
- Advertising and Marketing Companies
- Lawyers
- Utility Companies
- Print or Electronic Media



Are you one of them? Or do you offer one of the following services?

- Allow customers to pay for services or products in four or more installments
- Extend credit and impose a finance charge or late fee
- Help customers obtain financing in any way
- Assist clients in advertising and marketing of consumer financial products and services

You could be subject to the new rules of the CFPA.

For example, are you a furniture retailer who provides layaway plans? ***You may be considered a credit provider and regulated by the bill.***

Are you a lawyer or ad agency whose work is somehow related to consumer financial matters? ***You may be regulated, too.***

A school, church or other non-profit that provides financial advice to low-income taxpayers? ***You guessed it!***

The good news is it's not too late to stop this bill. **Congress needs to hear from small businesses like yours now. Click here to contact your members of Congress today. www.ohiobusinessvotes.org.**

We need consumer protection that is effective and efficient and that will not hurt small businesses and stop creation of more jobs. Unfortunately, the current proposal will do just the opposite