

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2021

Faith Leaders Call for Repeal of OCC Rule Blessing “Rent-a-Bank” Schemes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, 60 faith leaders and organizations from across the country called on Congress to repeal the OCC’s so-called “true lender” rule through Congressional Review Act S.J.Res.15/H.J.Res.35. The OCC’s rule would bless an arrangement predatory lenders have used to evade state interest rate caps by finding a bank willing to pose as the true lender on their high-cost loans, the “rent-a-bank” scheme.

From the **Faith & Credit Roundtable** [letter](#):

“As faith leaders, we witness and minister to the pain and suffering in our communities. We see that time and again predatory loans make suffering worse. At a time of great economic peril in our nation, we urge you to vote to overturn this rule and focus instead on supporting hardworking people with fair and responsible resources.

“Existing state rate caps of around 36% APR allow for responsible products to thrive and flourish in the marketplace. They also serve as a bulwark against predatory actors. The ‘true lender’ rule provides an easy avenue for predatory lenders to evade these critical protections.”

The letter comes as the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is set to hold a remote hearing on Wednesday entitled “The Reemergence of Rent-a-Bank?” Congress must meet a May deadline to overturn the rule.

Dr. Frederick Haynes, III, Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church of Dallas, will be testifying at the hearing.

Live webcast Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 10:00 am ET:

<https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/the-reemergence-of-rent-a-bank>

Hearing Witnesses:

- **Josh Stein**, *Attorney General, North Carolina*
- **Lisa Stifler**, *Director of State Policy, Center for Responsible Lending (CRL)*
- **Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III**, *Senior Pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas*
- **Dr. Charles Calomiris**, *Henry Kaufman Professor of Financial Institutions, Columbia Business School*
- **Brian Brooks**, *Former Acting Comptroller of the Currency*

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Press contact: carol.parish@responsiblelending.org