



# U.S. SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **FAVORABLE REACTION TO THE CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLOSURE ACT (THE C.A.R.D. ACT)**

➤ **Senator Carl Levin (D-MI):**

*“With all the economic hardship facing folks today, from falling home prices to rising gasoline and food costs, it is more important than ever for Congress to act now to stop credit card abuses and protect American families from unfair credit card practices. The Dodd bill is the strongest credit card bill yet in this Congress, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor. It adds important protections to the Levin-McCaskill bill, which was based on investigative hearings into unfair credit card practices conducted by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.”*

➤ **Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ):**

*“Too many Americans have to worry every time they swipe their credit card if a trap door will open underneath them. These days, when people are paying more for gas, more for food, more for many basic services and are putting those costs on their credit cards, these unfair credit card practices can have a devastating impact. More and more, the credit card situation is beginning to look like the beginning of the foreclosure crisis. I am proud to work with Chairman Dodd to make things fair between credit card companies and cardholders and to prevent a mounting problem from taking another hit on a struggling economy.”*

➤ **Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR):**

*“American families already burdened with high oil prices, sky-rocketing food costs, and a sub-prime mortgage mess don't need credit card companies piling on more financial problems through policies that are unfair and anti-consumer. Credit card debt is a crisis in this country. Senator Dodd's efforts will go a long way toward the ultimate and critical goal of making credit card companies more accountable and consumers more aware of what these companies slip into their agreements.”*

➤ **Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO):**

*"As Americans try to get out of credit card debt, the credit cards companies are tilting the playing field in their favor. It's time that we fight for Americans to be treated fairly when it comes to the enormous debt that many of them are facing. For example, common industry practices take advantage of consumers by hiking interest rates for things like taking out a new credit card or spending close to your credit limit. If we're not careful, credit card debt could very easily become the next sub-prime mortgage crisis."*

➤ **Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA):**

*"Senator Dodd's new credit card bill is further recognition that middle class Americans are fed up with abusive practices, and I look forward to reviewing the details of Senator Dodd's proposal. I appreciate the effort of Senator Dodd, along with the work of Senator Levin, Congresswoman Maloney and the Federal Reserve and the Office of Thrift Supervision, to give Americans a break on their credit cards."*

➤ **Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY):**

*"Credit card industry abuses have become more pronounced in this troubled economy as more families turn to their credit cards to help pay bills, buy groceries, and make ends meet. It's clear that America's credit cardholders need - and deserve - relief now. By the time the Fed gets around to finalizing its regulatory proposals, countless more cardholders could be facing sky-high interest rates that will bury them in mountains of inescapable debt. I applaud Chairman Dodd for crafting a great bill, and look forward to working with him to deliver swift and meaningful credit card reform to American consumers."*

➤ **Elizabeth Warren, Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law, Harvard Law School:**

*"Senator Dodd says it is time to change the rules of the credit card game. For everyone who has been tricked or trapped by a credit card agreement that is impossible to understand, this is powerful news. The CARD Act could save families more than a billion dollars each year by cutting out the most unfair of the penalty fees and sky-high interest rates. Families need this help, and I am proud to stand behind Senator Dodd's efforts to provide it."*

➤ **Jeannine Kenney, Senior Policy Analyst, Consumers Union:**

*"Even the most sophisticated, careful and responsible consumer can be trapped by credit card companies' unfair and abusive practices. Fundamentally, this bill stands for a very simple proposition that every American expects credit card companies to abide by--a deal is a deal. The Credit CARD Act prevents card companies from changing the rules in the middle of the game--by jacking*

*up interest rates for card holders in perfectly good standing for any reason, or no reason at all, and applying that rate to their existing balances.*

*“This tactic isn't just unfair, it can be financially devastating: minimum monthly payments can skyrocket, burdening families already struggling under a faltering economy; and the total cost of that debt and the time to pay it off can soar, driving them deeper into debt. It's time for these practices to end.*

*“We applaud Chairman Dodd for his leadership and courage in tackling these abuses head-on today, when the red flags are waving. Congress should move quickly to enact this important measure before a true crisis hits.”*

➤ **Lauren K. Saunders, Managing Attorney, National Consumer Law Center:**

*“Credit card companies lure consumers in by offering low interest rates they have no intention of keeping. The CARD Act ends bait and switch tactics by prohibiting retroactive interest rate hikes on purchases you've already made.”*

➤ **Edmund Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director, U.S. PIRG:**

*“For too long, the bank regulators' “anything goes” deregulatory philosophy has given credit card companies a license to steal. Senator Dodd's CARD Act will grant students and others critical new protections against these unfair practices in the credit card marketplace.”*

➤ **Stephen Lerner, assistant to the President and director of the Private Equity Project, Service Employees International Union:**

*“Working families are the favorite targets of big banks and credit card issuers, paying more each year in unreasonable fees and credit card interest. SEIU will fight alongside Congress and Senator Chris Dodd to put a stop to the worst abuses.”*

➤ **Travis B. Plunkett, Legislative Director, Consumer Federation of America:**

*“The Consumer Federation of America commends Chairman Dodd for offering comprehensive legislation to stop credit card companies from hitting consumers with unwarranted interest rate hikes and outrageous fees. As the economy worsens, these traps and tricks are pushing more families closer to the financial brink.”*

➤ **Linda Sherry, Director of National Priorities, Consumer Action:**

*“This is a strong consumer protection bill of the magnitude and scope we would expect from Chairman Dodd's leadership. It carries a number of landmark protections, including a much needed ban on unilateral changes to card*

*agreements-a brutally unfair practice which no cardholder, no matter how responsible, can avoid.”*