

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Congratulations on your election to the House Speakership. I enjoyed having dinner with you in July, and I look forward to working with you and stand ready to assist you in your new role.

The American Financial Services Association (AFSA) the national trade association for the consumer credit industry. AFSA was founded in 1916 and is devoted to the principles of protecting access to credit and consumer choice. AFSA's mission, which we know you support, is to promote safe, ethical lending to responsible, informed borrowers. AFSA members provide consumers with many kinds of credit, including traditional installment loans, mortgages, direct and indirect vehicle financing, payment cards, and retail sales finance.

AFSA wants to ensure that safe and affordable credit remains available to Americans who need it. To that end, AFSA opposes efforts by some Members of Congress, as well as regulators like the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB), to overregulate the consumer credit industry. Efforts to curtail arbitration and to impose harmful arbitrary rate caps should not be anywhere on the House agenda. These initiatives lead to higher costs for consumers and disproportionately harm the very people they are intended to help. AFSA believes that regulation should be a collaborative process between regulators and the parties directly impacted by the proposed regulations.

AFSA's other priorities include promoting competition in the financial sector and enabling consumers to negotiate fair deals. AFSA believes that extension of credit must be affordable by both borrowers and lenders. To that end, AFSA encourages the House to support the current vehicle finance model of dealership financing. AFSA also supports the voluntary furnishing of consumer information to credit reporting agencies so that Americans are able to receive the loans they need without obtaining loans they cannot afford to pay back.

Government, consumers, and the credit industry can and should work together to promote lending that helps consumers meet their financial needs through affordable credit. AFSA is ready to stand with you to promote these ideals and provide responsible lending to Americans. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance to you, please contact Ann Harter on my staff at aharter@afsamail.org or (202) 466-8606.

Again, congratulations on your Speakership, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Himpler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

Bill Himpler
President and CEO