



Chairwoman Delores Kelley
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB262: Maryland Collection Agency Licensing Act
Testimony on Behalf of MD|DC Credit Union Association
Position: Oppose

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the MD|DC Credit Union Association and the 84 Credit Unions and their 2 million members that we represent in the State of Maryland, we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this legislation. Credit Unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives whose mission is to promote thrift and provide access to credit for provident and productive purposes for our members. We respectfully oppose this bill.

Many of our members engage in mortgage lending and have the goal of providing consumer friendly mortgages for their members. Part of being able to offer mortgage loans that are best for our members is having the support of the government supported enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan banks and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) which oversees these entities. These entities are the largest buyers and insurers of mortgages in the nation and are vital to the mortgage industry. The FHFA has publicly stated, in no uncertain terms, that this legislation would create “substantial uncertainty” in the Maryland mortgage market and “could harm existing Maryland homeowners as well as future borrowers.”

Without reiterating the points that General Counsel Pollard made in his submitted written testimony (FHFA Memorandum dated January 29, 2020), we oppose this legislation. The requirements proposed in this bill “would create no added benefit or consumer protection” but could very likely cause instability in the Maryland mortgage market.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 443-325-0774 or jbratsakis@mddccua.org, or our VP of Advocacy, Rory Murray at rmurray@mddccua.org should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Bratsakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Bratsakis
President and CEO
MD|DC Credit Union Association