



MD|DC
Credit Union Association

Chairman William C. Smith
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB724: Mortgage Servicers - Requirements and Prohibitions During and After a State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency (Foreclosure Relief Act of 2021)

Testimony on Behalf of: MD|DC Credit Union Association

Position: Oppose

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

The MD|DC Credit Union Association, on behalf of the 77 Credit Unions and their 2.2 million members that we represent in the State of Maryland, appreciates the opportunity to testify on this legislation. Credit Unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives whose mission is to educate and help members achieve financial well-being. **We respectfully oppose this bill.**

Credit unions strive to balance the service to members that they pride themselves on with the financial impact a delinquent loan has on the credit union's overall health, as members are also owners. Safety and soundness remain top of mind in all that we do. Credit unions have and will continue to work to help members with or without legislation telling them to do so, and a foreclosure is a measure of last resort.

The current state and federal COVID relief-related legislative actions and guidances, as well as the Governor's Executive Orders, have created significant and sufficient protections for homeowners in these challenging times. Our overarching concern with this legislation is that it will remove the flexibility to adapt to this emergency in real-time, as has been the case thus far. An example of this flexibility is the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) recent extension of the foreclosure and eviction moratorium. The current moratoriums were set to expire on March 31 but now won't end until June 30, now a total of 18 months.

As always, we appreciate the ability to have our voices heard and look forward to a continued partnership. Please reach out to me at jbratsakis@mddccua.org or our VP of Advocacy, Rory Murray, at rmurray@mddccua.org with comments or questions.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

John Bratsakis
President/CEO
MD|DC Credit Union Association