

# CFPB: Don't Abandon Military Families

For decades, predatory lenders have targeted servicemembers with 300% interest rates and other abuses. A nearly unanimous Congress acted to pass the Military Lending Act, which stops any bank or nonbank lender from charging American troops more than 36% interest rate. Those protections are now under attack. Military and veteran leaders are voicing their opposition and they need your help. Add your name to the petition by visiting [KeepMilitaryProtections.org](http://KeepMilitaryProtections.org).

Secretary James N. Mattis  
US Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Director Mick Mulvaney  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
1700 G St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Secretary Mattis and Director Mulvaney:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a nonpartisan advocacy group comprised of the undersigned military and veterans service organizations, write to urge continued strong enforcement and supervision of the Military Lending Act and to stand against any attempts to undermine or weaken it.

Broad bipartisan support led to the enactment of the Military Lending Act. Recognizing the risk to military readiness when service members are targeted for high interest rates, Congress chose to cap the interest rate to service members at 36%.

Service members and their families suffer harm when predatory lenders target them with financial fraud and extremely high interest rates. As you know, maps of the location of payday lenders have shown they surround military bases and target our military.

But the harm is not only to service members. The harm also extends to the Pentagon's costs and military readiness. The Defense Department has explained:

"[T]he anticipated benefit of [ensuring the Military Lending Act's 36% interest rate cap] are the savings attributable to lower recruiting and training expenses associated with the reduction in involuntary separation of Service members where financial distress is a contributing factor. Each separation of a Service member is estimated to cost the Department \$58,250, and the Department estimates that each year approximately 4,640 to 7,580 Service members are involuntarily separated where financial distress is a contributing factor. If the Department's proposed regulation could reduce the annual number of involuntary separations where financial distress is a contributing factor from between 5 to 30 percent, the savings to the Department could be in the range of approximately \$13.51 million to \$132.52 million each year."<sup>1</sup>

We urge you to stand with our military and against any attempt to weaken the Military Lending Act, including the Bureau's supervisory and enforcement authority and the Department's rules against predatory lending by all business, including car dealerships.

Sincerely,



Name  
Air Force Sergeants Association



Name  
American Military Society



Name  
American Veterans



Christopher Cole  
Association of the United States Navy



Name  
Code of Support Foundation



Name  
CPOA



Name  
Fleet Reserve Assn



Name  
ILVC



Name  
Jewish War Veterans of The United States



Name  
Military Chaplains Association



John L. Ballantyne  
Military Child Education Coalition



Name  
Military Officers Association of America



Douglas Greenlaw  
Military Order of the Purple Heart



Phil Gore  
National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators



Name  
National Military & Veterans Alliance



Name  
National Military Family Association



Name  
Non Commissioned Officers Association



Andrea N. Goldstein  
Service to School



Name  
Service Women's Action Network



Name  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors



Name  
The Retired Enlisted Association



Name  
USA WOA



Walter Ochinko  
Veterans Education Success



Bob Wallace  
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Richard F. Weidman  
Vietnam Veterans of America

<sup>1</sup>80 FR 43559 (July 22, 2015)

# KeepMilitaryProtections.org