



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A Woman's Place
AAUW Doylestown Branch
AAUW Levittown-Lower Bucks Branch
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County
Breastfeeding Resource Center
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Bucks County Commissioners' Advisory Council for Women
Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
Bucks County Housing Group
Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
Bucks County Opportunity Council
Bucks County Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Bucks-Mont Collaborative
BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Peace and Justice Committee
Child, Home & Community Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children
Family Service Association of Bucks County
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks
Jane Barr Horstman & Associates
Keystone Progress
LaVO Design
League of Women Voters of Bucks County
Libertae
Makefield Area Action Fund of AAUW
Maternity Care Coalition
NAACP, Bucks County Branch
National Council of Jewish Women - PA
Network of Victim Assistance PathWays PA
Planned Parenthood Keystone
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County
Sircely Marketing & Design
Socrates Developers, LLC
Soroptimist International of Bucks County
The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania
The Peace Center
Women's Center of Montgomery County
Woods Services
YWCA Bucks County

PARTNER INDIVIDUALS

Hundreds of Individual Partners and Growing

November 21, 2017

The Hon. Brian Fitzpatrick
1717 Langhorne-Newtown Road
Langhorne, PA 19047

Dear Congressman Fitzpatrick:

We write to ask you to please vote NO on H.R. 3299, the "Protecting Consumers' Access Act" when it comes up on the Floor soon. This bill is designed to help only the payday lenders, not the consumers.

This bill would wipe away the strongest available tool against predatory lending practices; namely, our state's strong cap on interest rates. And it would encourage lenders to partner with banks ("rent-a-bank") in order to make usurious and unaffordable loans.

One of the principles of our Coalition is to work to ensure that women and their families are free from predatory, exploitive, and abusive practices and persons. For several years now we have joined with others in our Commonwealth to prevent the payday lenders from coming into Pennsylvania to set up little shops or go online in order to make debt-trap loans.

H.R. 3299 restricts states' abilities to regulate and enforce interest rate caps. So if you favor states being able to make their own determinations, you would, we trust, logically be against this bill.

The payday lending industry has a business model that depends on its consumers getting deeper and deeper into debt from one loan that happens to have exorbitant interest and high fees. The average loan term is about two weeks. Loans typically cost **400%** annual interest (APR) or more. The finance charge ranges from \$15 to \$30 to borrow \$100. For two-week loans, these finance charges result in interest rates from 390 to 780% APR.

Surely you do not want to see your constituents be caught in a cycle of unaffordable payments and then greater delinquency on other bills, not to mention awful mental stress.

We are counting on you to do the right thing for us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tam St. Claire
President

Nancy P. Morrill
President-Emerita