NO CAP.

Credit is Capital. Tell Congress: NO CAP on Credit.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY BRIEF

THE SMALL BUSINESS CASE FOR CREDIT ACCESS EXPANSION IN AMERICA

Powered by U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. · June 2026

85%

Of Americans could see credit lines eliminated or limited by proposed caps — that's 8 out of 10 entrepreneurs with personal credit cards with a credit score below 800

NO CAP Initiative · U.S. Black Chambers

58%

Of small businesses regularly use credit cards — the most-used financing product

Federal Reserve SBCS, 2024

$6T

Of U.S. consumer spending — including at local small businesses — runs on credit cards

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

NO CAP'S POSITION

THE CONVERSATION SHOULD BE ABOUT EXPANDING ACCESS, NOT RESTRICTING IT.

Recently, politicians in Washington on both the Left and the Right have begun discussing a legislative proposal to cap credit card interest rates at **10%**. While such a proposal sounds like a potential win for American consumers, a deeper examination of the data reveals a problematic policy with hidden costs that would disproportionately be borne by working families and small businesses.

NO CAP exists to make sure the credit access conversation in Washington is about **strengthening access, not constricting it**. Consumer protection and small business access aren't in conflict — but a federal rate cap forces them to be.

WHY A CAP REDUCES ACCESS

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE.

58% of small businesses regularly use credit cards — it's the most-used financing product among small firms. For many businesses, credit cards are the primary revolving line of credit used to purchase inventory, manage uneven cash flow, and bridge the time between winning a contract and executing on it.

When lenders can't price for risk, they don't lend at a loss — **they stop lending to riskier borrowers**. Founders with limited credit history and Year-One operations are first to lose access when credit is priced out of reach.

The borrowers pushed out don't disappear. They migrate to **merchant cash advances and payday lenders** — products carrying effective rates of 60%, 100%, sometimes higher. A consumer protection policy creates a consumer protection failure.

WHAT ACCESS EXPANSION LOOKS LIKE

THE POLICY FRAME NO CAP IS FIGHTING FOR.

01 **STRENGTHEN CDFIS AND COMMUNITY BANKS.**

Direct federal investment in community-rooted lenders that already serve underserved markets and understand local small business risk.

02 **EXPAND SBA LOAN ACCESS FOR EMERGING FOUNDERS.**

Particularly for Year-One operations and businesses with limited collateral histories — the borrowers most affected by a federal rate cap.

03 **INVEST IN FINANCIAL LITERACY & BANKABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Treat “becoming bankable” as a public-goods investment, not an individual burden.

04 **CLOSE THE APPROVAL GAP FOR CREDIT-CONSTRAINED BORROWERS.**

Target measurable, accountable interventions for the small businesses and founders whose access to affordable credit is most at risk under proposed policy.

> *Credit isn't just debt. It's working capital when you know how to use it.*
>
> — NO CAP CAMPAIGN · U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS, INC.

WHY USBC LEADS THIS FIGHT.

The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. represents chambers in **all 50 states**. **3.5 million Black-owned businesses** generate **$249 billion in annual revenue**. The small business position is the position closest to the borrower — and the position most often missing from federal credit access policy debates. NO CAP exists to put that voice at the table, grounded in responsible lending, the path to becoming bankable, and the protection of the credit access that fuels growth.

FOR POLICYMAKERS & STAFF

BRING SMALL BUSINESS TO THE TABLE.

Request a USBC briefing on the small business credit access landscape. Access citation-ready data, case studies, and chamber leader perspectives from your district.

CONTACT → USBCNOCAP.COM

FOR CHAMBER LEADERS & SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

JOIN THE ACTIVATION LIST.

Receive talking points, downloadable assets, and time-sensitive activation alerts when legislative votes near. Built for the people organizing on the ground.

SIGN UP → USBCNOCAP.COM/ADVOCACY

SOURCES: Federal Reserve Small Business Credit Survey (2024), U.S. Census Bureau Annual Business Survey (2025), CFPB Consumer Credit Card Market Report, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Full citations available in the NO CAP White Paper.