

2017 National Legislative Update

There are a host of national legislative issues we're tracking and supporting. The major regulatory relief bills that we followed, monitored or supported in the last Congress that did not make it to the President's desk are no longer active pieces of legislation, but are likely to be reintroduced in some form in the near future.

U.S. Sen. **David Perdue** is a member of the U.S. Senate Financial Services Committee, and Reps. **David Scott** (D-GA13) and **Barry Loudermilk** (R-GA11) are members of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee. We'll work with them and the entire Georgia delegation to support legislation related to the following priorities:

Sensible regulation. Oversee banks in a way that promotes growth and innovation, while avoiding arbitrary and capricious penalties and providing robust exam review and appeal channels. Update rules to reflect changes in technology. Restore balance to the regulatory process, including Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reform and a focus on promoting both economic growth and safety and soundness.

Tailored regulation and arbitrary thresholds. Tailor regulation to correspond to a bank's business model and risk, eliminate artificial and arbitrary regulatory asset thresholds, and pursue a more balanced supervisory process that eliminates drag on bankers' ability to employ capital to support economic growth.

Mortgage rules. Reform mortgage regulations that have raised costs and prevented banks from flexibly serving their customers without enhancing consumer protections or safety and soundness. Most crucially, deeming loans held in portfolio as Qualified Mortgages will expand safe and responsible access to credit.

Housing finance reform. Constrain the role of the federal government—and potential taxpayer liability—in housing finance to a well-defined, explicit and fully priced guarantee of loans made by private lenders. Ensure equitable access to such programs by lenders of all sizes and from all communities.

Flood insurance. Help homeowners protect themselves by providing more incentives to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and encouraging development of a strong private flood insurance market.

Level playing fields. Reduce economic distortions by providing more charter flexibility and capital options for thrift institutions, including mutual banks, and protecting S-Corp banks from arbitrary disadvantages due to the Basel III capital and other rules.

Small business growth. Fuel lending to job-creating businesses through both increased funding for key SBA loan programs and eliminate regulations that artificially dictate business lending decisions. Tax reform. Reduce rates to drive growth while simplifying the complex tax code—plus eliminating poorly targeted subsidies to massive credit unions and Farm Credit lenders that no longer pursue their missions.

Student debt. Change the tax treatment of student debt repayments to help unburden those who have invested in their own potential.

More on reverse...

Joe Brannen | President and CEO | 404.420.2026 | jbrannen@gabankers.com

Elizabeth Chandler | SVP-Government Relations | 404.420.2027 | echandler@gabankers.com

David Oliver | SVP-Communications and Marketing | 404.420.2036 | doliver@gabankers.com

Web site | www.gabankers.com

...2017 National Legislative Update, continued

Fintech and nonbank competitors. Facilitate partnerships of banks and technology firms, ensure customers are protected through consistent and effective oversight of all providers and encourage innovations by providing a regulatory “greenhouse” for testing new products before roll-out.

Data breaches. Ensure that all parties share accountability for protecting customer information and notifying the public after a breach, with the responsible party bearing the costs of their failure to protect customers.

Cybersecurity. Expand collaborative public-private efforts to fight cyber threats through information-sharing and self-reporting of cyber risks without fear of regulatory sanctions or reputation risk.

Rural growth. Pursue pro-growth policies to help farmers manage debt burdens and pricing challenges, fight deposit flight through encouraging access to longer-term stable funding sources, and address the shortage of qualified appraisers in rural areas that hinders real estate transactions.

Interchange. Restore market pricing on debit interchange fees so that consumers can once again enjoy more flexibility in the products and services that banks offer.

AML/BSA. Limit the burdens of Bank Secrecy Act compliance and reporting—especially new requirements that place undue burdens on customers—and eliminate potential sanctions for banking legal businesses.

Small-dollar credit. Preserve banks’ ability to serve customers with small-dollar loans and overdraft protection.