



Credit Union National Association

cuna.org

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), we are writing to request your support for the Oxley/Frank/Kolbe/Pastor amendment to remove the matricula consular identification card language, Section 216, from the Treasury-Transportation Appropriations bill that may be considered by the House of Representatives next week.

Specifically, we oppose language that the Treasury, Postal Subcommittee adopted that prohibits the Secretary of the Treasury from expending any funds to "publish, implement, administer or enforce regulations that permit financial institutions to accept the matricula consular identification card as a form of identification."

Many credit unions in the United States already use matricula identification cards to open financial accounts for non-U.S. citizens, providing a safe alternative for Mexican nationals who otherwise would be forced to use expensive payday and predatory lenders for check-cashing and remittance services. It is crucial for credit unions, particularly for those in low-income areas, to be able to rely on official documents such as the matricula in opening accounts. Recognizing the legal authority supporting this documentation not only provides financial institutions with a measure of protection against fraud, but serves a broader purpose of integrating immigrants into the mainstream of American life.

This amendment also defeats the anti-money laundering intent of Section 326 of the USA PATRIOT Act, and undermines financial institutions' abilities to detect and prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Under the PATRIOT Act, credit unions and financial institutions are afforded the ability to determine what types of customer identifications will be accepted at their own institutions, based upon their member base and products and services that are offered.

Again, CUNA, WOCCU and our member credit unions strongly support the removal of this provision in the FY2005 Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies appropriations measure, and ask that you vote "yes" on the Oxley/Frank/Kolbe/Pastor amendment to remove this language. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Daniel A. Mica  
President & CEO  
Credit Union National Association

Arthur Arnold  
President & CEO  
World Council of Credit Unions



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