

From: James Thompson
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Good Evening,

I am writing to you this evening to beg for your support of legislation that forces banks to allow consumers the ability to opt-in to accepting overdraft fee's on debit cards or without that approval to not be able to charge them. This is not a dissertation on how poorly my spouse does or does not manage money however this ability of the bank costs my family a couple thousand dollars a year.

I would prefer my card or my spouses debit card be declined, period. I struggle each month to maintain a budget and am meticulous of my record keeping. My spouse is not and that is out of my control. Citizens Bank is making huge amounts of money by charging \$39 for every debit card overdraft that occurs on my spouses account. I have called corporate offices, gone into branches, called customer service rep's, all to no avail. This "customer service" is one I have to live with no matter how badly I want it to stop. I was recently charged \$39 for an overage that lasted for 20 minutes. My spouse bought a coffee at Dukins Donuts on her way to work. When I arrived at my job I checked our accounts and saw she was \$.27 (yes 27 cents) overdrawn. I immediately transferred money into her account but it didn't matter. Citizens Bank charged a \$39 overdraft fee for 27 cents.

I pay for a lack of discipline and the bank supports that behavior openly and as often as she wants to use it. This is as criminal as feeding any abusive behavior for which there is much legislation in place to make illegal. If there was an option for making it difficult for my spouse to cause this situation I have tried it. I need your help now.

I work for one of the largest american banks so in essence I am asking for something that also has the potential of negatively impacting me in another way. I do not care, the aggravation of dealing with this week after week, paycheck after paycheck, is absurd. I cannot tell you how many times I watch our next paycheck dwindle even before I get it and then I figure out some maigical way to recover from it. Short of divorcing my spouse I cannot stop it at home, I need the ability to stop the bank from supporting her behavior.

I am sure the amount of money the bank I work for makes from this very practice is enormous. It is still wrong.

I strongly urge you to pass this law and to do it quickly. I have already seen my investments fall enormously, my childrens collge funds disappear, my company's contirbutions to my 401(k) account come to an stop. I have less and less control each day it seems but I should not have to fight for this one. I want to be declined, when the money is gone so be it. That is my choice, not Citizens Bank or any other, well, at least not as I sit here and ask for your help.

Sincerely,

James Thompson