

"Tom Poorman" <tpoorman@tjrockmedical.com> on 07/24/2008 10:35:03 AM

Subject: Regulation AA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this in support of the above mentioned docket. The Regulation AA - Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices (R-1314) is an important piece of legislation that needs to be taken most seriously by *elected* officials. The banking and credit industries have had their way for far too long in their abusive practices such as the examples listed below:

- **Retroactive re-pricing**, or jacking up the rate on an existing credit card balance, for any reason other than the customer paying late.
- **Double-cycle billing**, which essentially charges two months' interest on a balance carried only one month.
- **Unfair payment allocation**, in which the issuer applies your monthly payment only to your lowest-rate balance (typically a balance transfer), so that your high-rate balances -- typically purchases and cash advances -- continue to accrue tons of interest.
- **Bait-and-switch offers**, in which one interest rate is heavily advertised but applicants wind up with another, much higher one.
- **Arbitrary due times**, which make a payment late if it arrives on the due date but does so after, say, 1 p.m. Central time.
- **Mandatory bounce protection**, or "courtesy overdraft" coverage, that can't be turned off, which means overdraft transactions automatically get approved and rack up big fees.
- **Charging overdraft fees based on holds**. Certain merchants (gas stations, hotels, car rental outfits) are notorious for placing big holds on your checking account when you use a debit card. These holds are typically for far more than you actually spend and may not be released for hours or even days after the transactions, yet some banks count these holds as actual transactions and charge fees as if you'd actually overdrawn your account.

Whoever reads this should ask themselves *are they victims of the same abuses listed above or of others not listed and how do they **really feel** about it?*

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Tom Poorman