

From: Karen Genn
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

I wish to comment on the legislation being considered regarding debit card usage/overdrafts.

I sincerely urge you to pass this legislation. I have had first hand experience with the problem of overdrafting of debit/ATM cards. I have 3 grandchildren who, as 16 year olds, were hired for their first jobs and whose employers required they have a bank account for automatic payroll deposits.

All 3 opened accounts and obtained debit or ATM cards to access their money. They had no experience with managing bank accounts & transaction registers at 16 years old. They almost immediately incurred overdraft problems because they thought they had funds, and assumed that if there were not sufficient funds, the card would be rejected. One of them incurred fees in excess of \$200. One of them accessed their bank's own ATM machine and withdrew money from the account that didn't have funds to cover the amount of withdrawal. Of course they incurred an overdraft fee. Their money management learning experiences were disastrous and disheartening.

The Banking industry needs to have regulation in place to require them to allow bank account customers the option to decide for themselves if they want overdraft protection, or card rejection at the point of sale, for non sufficient funds. An automatic enrollment at the time of opening an account is simply not acceptable.

The banks are pushing to keep one of their lucrative money-makers intact at the expense of the public; I would suspect a majority of those paying these unconscionable fees are either young people just opening their first accounts, or immigrants learning how to live and work in America.

What a morally shameful thing the banks are doing. After the mortgage debacle, it appears that the banks are attempting to keep (or increase) their bottom line, to make up for the moneys lost in the mortgage business, by retaining other ways to milk the customer instead of stepping up and helping to rebuild America's financial strength.