

ANONYMOUS

Proposal and Comment Information

Title: Prohibition on Use of Reputation Risk or Other Supervisory Tools to Encourage or Compel Banking Organizations to Engage in Politicized or Unlawful Discrimination, R-1884

Comment ID: FR-2026-0002-01-C11323

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous

Submitted Date: 03/20/2026

Payment processors, banks, and other financial institutions should have no ability to pressure or dictate what legal goods and services a company can sell, based on some non-legal perception of those activities, period. Doing so allows arbitrary and potentially malicious restriction of American businesses and censorship executed by financial institutions. These monolithic financial institutions have such power over businesses that there is no legal or even financial recourse for them to operate as they choose. Just two entities - VISA and Mastercard, choosing to shut off service to a business are enough to financially ruin any company. These ultimatums (often delivered in vague, uncertain terms that are not published or publicly discussed) are even passed down through businesses as well, such that a new company may get such an ultimatum not from VISA or Mastercard itself, but from a second or third business that the public-facing business operates through such as storefronts, which obfuscates the actual source of the directive, allowing financial institutions to dodge responsibility and shift blame. The increasing frequency and intensity of these instances is alarming and a clear sign that action needs to be taken to reign in this extra-legal restriction of American businesses. I am not a business owner myself, but as a customer I see the effects in businesses removing products and services or shutting down, while citing the pressure of these financial institutions, particularly payment processors like VISA and Mastercard. It also just makes me upset at a personal level that my credit card processor wants to have a say in what I can or cannot buy. If they want to serve as a de facto replacement for cash, they should be as impartial, non-judgemental, and blind to the particulars of the transaction, in terms of what kind of business to allow or not.