



U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
– CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS –
THE HEROES ACT
PROTECTS CONSUMERS AND THEIR CREDIT SCORES

- The COVID-19 pandemic has caused extensive and growing impacts not only on the public health and well-being of millions of Americans, but also significant economic harm as well.
- Through no fault of their own, millions of Americans are unable to make payments on credit cards, car loans, or even their mortgage or rent.
- The Heroes Act ensures that these innocent consumers are held harmless and do not suffer further damage by having late or missed payments ruin their consumer credit report and reduce their credit score, which in turn limits their ability to get affordable credit or even a job.

Stronger Protections than those Provided in CARES Act.

Under CARES, consumers have to rely on the willingness of creditors and servicers to agree to forbearance or other payment arrangements in order to be protected by the new law.

→ *The Heroes Act replaces the CARES Act provision with much stronger consumer protections.*

The Heroes Act (Section 110401) helps consumers in several ways

- **Suspends negative consumer credit reporting** during the COVID-19 pandemic plus an additional 120 days.
- **Prevents credit scores from being ruined** by preventing adverse information being added to consumer credit reports and prohibiting credit score furnishers from creating and/or implementing new credit scoring models that would lower existing consumer credit scores during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bans COVID-19 medical debt reporting**, in particular any debts relating to COVID-19 medical procedures or treatments. Consumers impacted by the staggering costs of medical care should not face diminished credit options due to getting sick in a global pandemic.

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