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From: Lynne Christiano [mailto:lchristiano@heraldpalladium.com]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 9:48 AM
To: Public Info
Subject: Proposed rules to prohibit unfair credit card practices

I am writing to you with regards to the proposed rules you are going to attempt to enforce over credit card companies. This is a long time coming and will be much appreciated. I have personally been affected by the "legal loan shark" mentality of credit card companies and banks in the past year. My family has been struggling financially for the past

18 months, as many Americans have been. I was forced to use my credit cards to keep us afloat during that time period. I hesitated to do it, but saw no other option at the time, as I do not consider bankruptcy an option unless we are absolutely pushed to the wall. I have been caught in the trap of my credit card companies, who were happy to extend me the credit. Every single one of them has doubled my minimum payment and raised my interest rate. This makes entirely no sense. If you are struggling to make your payment to begin with, how are you going to make a higher payment, with a higher interest rate, and no hope of ever paying it off? It's American greed at its pinnacle.

I sat down almost a year ago and called all of my creditors and asked them to work with me to begin paying down my debt in a reasonable amount of time. The majority of them turned me down flat. So I called a reputable Debt Reduction attorney and they have been working with me for almost a year to begin paying down my debt. To date, I am being sued by Chase Bank, regardless of what I am trying to do, and my attorney is in discussions with them currently to encourage them to accept my debt reduction plan and not garnish my wages. Honest Americans trying to pay their bills are being punished for the choice of many Americans to just simply walk away from their debt.

I encourage you to enact these rules and enforce them stringently as quickly as you can. America is in trouble from within, and we are looking to you to assist those of us trying to do the right thing, but just need a little time and fair business practices to do so.

Respectfully - Lynne Christiano