

January 26, 2017

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Chairman
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling:

We write regarding the need for Congress to clarify the Credit Repair Organizations Act, or CROA.

The courts have misconstrued CROA beyond the objective of protecting consumers from predatory credit repair activities. In *Stout v. Free Score*, the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals concluded that the provision of credit monitoring and identity protection services can be subject to CROA. These services enable consumers to protect their identities and to improve their ability to access credit at fair and affordable terms. Congress needs to clarify existing law so that certain, qualified entities can offer credit education and identity protection without confronting the barriers that have been established to prevent predatory credit repair activities. Consumers expect that the nationwide credit bureaus are able to provide them with actionable, legitimate steps they can take to improve their score. However, the misinterpretation of CROA effectively prevents us from providing consumers with the information they need to improve their credit behavior.

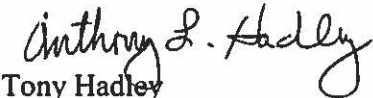
We support amendments to CROA that would ensure a competitive market of these services for consumers, while at the same time fully protecting consumers from those who would make promises that accurate, but derogatory information can be removed from credit reports.

The nationwide consumer reporting agencies strongly support the language that Congressman Ed Royce has developed to clarify CROA. It is our hope that Congress acts swiftly during the 115th Congress to return this law to its original intent and enable consumers to receive quality credit education that consumers want and need.

Respectfully,



Paul Zurawski
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
Equifax



Tony Hadley
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy
Experian



Dennis Ambach
Vice President, Government Relations
TransUnion

cc: The Honorable Ed Royce