

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILDER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BILLINGS,
ROBBY CARTER, COATES, DICKERSON, EDMONSTON, EGAN,
GADBERRY, HENRY, ILLG, MCCORMICK, NEWELL, OWEN, THOMAS,
AND WYBLE

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and the Trump administration to stop government from weaponizing financial institutions.

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump; United States Senator Tim Scott, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and United States Representative French Hill, Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services; are working to stop federal regulators from leveraging their authority to pressure banks to debank individuals and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the complexity of federal laws and regulations and the broad discretion of regulators have allowed federal regulators to weaponize banks for far too long; and

WHEREAS, banks are required by their regulators to manage risk, to know their customers, and to help detect and deter financial crimes, including money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism financing; and

WHEREAS, regulators require banks to file suspicious activity reports if banks suspect suspicious activity involving specific transactions, and banks are prohibited from communicating this to customers; and

WHEREAS, if a regulator decides a bank is not adequately managing risk, does not have a good enough system in place to detect and deter financial crimes, or is closing accounts too slowly, the bank can face significant monetary penalties and costly lawsuits, and potentially criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, this regulatory environment allows regulators to put intense pressure on banks that can result in financial institutions managing risk by reevaluating or even severing their relationships with businesses and individuals to minimize regulatory risks and costs; and

WHEREAS, examples of regulators taking advantage of this leverage include:

(1) Operation Choke Point in 2013, where several high-ranking bureaucrats attempted to pressure banks to stop doing business with ammunition and gun sellers, payday lenders, and other industries.

(2) Operation Choke Point 2.0 in 2022, where the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation sent letters to banks that called for a pause on cryptocurrency-related banking activity.

(3) Issuance of "guidance" by the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau that evades the rulemaking process.

(4) Issuance of "guidance" by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve System, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, forcing financial institutions to dedicate significant resources to climate change; and

WHEREAS, when federal regulatory agencies pressure banks to stop doing business with certain industries, it has a chilling effect that is ultimately a direct assault on free market capitalism, which has created the most prosperous nation in history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and President Trump to modernize anti-money laundering laws to better focus banks and law enforcement on potential financial criminal activity rather than the innocent banking activity of law-abiding customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all regulatory agencies with supervisory or regulatory authority over financial institutions should narrowly focus on their respective missions to protect the safety, soundness, and integrity of the United States financial system and refrain from using that authority to advance unrelated policy priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all regulatory agencies with supervisory or regulatory authority over financial institutions should refrain from abusing that authority by threats implicit in the issuance of allegedly non-binding "guidance".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be increased transparency and accountability for regulators and bank examiners to better balance legitimate concerns relating to money laundering and financial soundness while mitigating impacts to law-abiding citizens' access to financial services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the acting comptroller of the currency of the United States Department of the Treasury, the acting chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES