

## Rep. Eshoo Votes to Protect Consumers from Unfair Credit Card Industry Practices

WASHINGTON, D.C. &ndash; Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) voted today for the Credit Cardholders&rsquo; Bill of Rights which provides crucial protections for consumers against unfair and deceptive credit card industry practices.

The legislation ends the misleading and egregious practices that are commonplace in the credit card industry today, including any-time, any-reason rate hikes and double cycle billing. It bans retroactive rate hikes on existing balances and requires 45-days notice of any interest rate hike.

The Credit Cardholders&rsquo; Bill of Rights also:

- Ends unfair, arbitrary interest rate increases;
- Lets consumers set hard credit limits and stop excessive &ldquo;over the limit&rdquo; fees;
- Ends unwarranted penalties for cardholders who pay on time;
- Protects cardholders from due date gimmicks; and
- Prevents companies from using misleading terms and damaging consumers&rsquo; credit ratings.

&ldquo;The Credit Cardholder&rsquo;s Bill of Rights will help stimulate the economy by putting more dollars in the hands of consumers and not into the coffers of major credit card companies. These companies will no longer be allowed to penalize cardholders who pay on time, or shift allocation of payments to maximize interest rates,&rdquo; said Eshoo. &ldquo;Congress has already taken urgent steps to bail out our financial system. It's time to throw a life preserver to families struggling to tread water in the rising tide of consumer debt. There&rsquo;s no doubt in my mind that America must go on a &lsquo;credit diet,&rsquo; but two-thirds of our national economy is based on consumer spending, making credit cards, how they are used and what people are charged in that usage, very important.

&ldquo;Good, stable credit card customers have watched as their existing balances triple and even quadruple &mdash; without warning and without justification. Today, Congress has the opportunity to bring equity and rationale to our credit card system and provide immediate financial relief to millions of Americans.&rdquo;

The Credit Cardholders&rsquo; Bill of Rights (H.R. 627) passed the House with a vote of 357-70.

###