

SJR66 INTRODUCED



1 SJR66
2 A6X1777-1
3 By Senator Roberts
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 25-Apr-24



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SJR___ URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO SAFE AND RELIABLE PAYMENTS SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Americans have developed an exceptionally advanced and innovative payments system through a steadfast focus on private sector leadership that respects the rights of individuals and companies to make their own informed choices about how they pay and are paid; and

WHEREAS, the market-based payments approach in this country responds to the dynamic and diverse needs of American entrepreneurs and consumers rather than operating under static government mandates; and

WHEREAS, while other nations import payments technology to run their economy, American companies set the standard of the global payments ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of prioritizing the protection of consumers from government interference that would shift financial transactions to less secure, less innovative, and potentially risky providers who could place consumers and their financial data in a more vulnerable position; and

WHEREAS, states should oppose any governmental economic favoritism, wherever proposed, that would negatively impact consumers, provide less choice and access to popular consumer benefits, such as cashback and rewards



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29 programs, threaten airline services, or undermine critical
30 payment fraud protections while increasing national risks;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the commandeering of the payments system by
33 the government or the central bank threatens personal
34 privacy, innovation, and American economic leadership; and

35 WHEREAS, the United States has the most robust and
36 secure financial system in the world, along with a strong
37 network supporting small businesses and protecting
38 consumers; and

39 WHEREAS, more than 486 million credit cards are in
40 use in the United States, with more than 196 million
41 Americans holding at least one credit card; and

42 WHEREAS, states should protect consumers' rights to
43 choose their payment methods and pay transparent prices by
44 preventing the addition of surcharges, an extra fee, when a
45 customer chooses to pay with a credit card; and

46 WHEREAS, the credit card payments industry is a
47 healthy and competitive space, and further legislation to
48 impose government-mandated price controls in this area is
49 both unnecessary and harmful to innovation and security; now
50 therefore,

51 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
52 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the State of Alabama urges
53 Congress to protect consumers from government interference
54 in the free markets and any actions that would weaken our
55 national security by opposing Congressional efforts to
56 overreach into the wallets of American consumers and small



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57 businesses.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we request that an
59 official copy of this resolution be sent to each member of
60 the Alabama Congressional Delegation and all other members
61 of Congress.