

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9966

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to establish the Interagency Task Force on Coerced Debt, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. PETERSEN, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to establish the Interagency Task Force on Coerced Debt, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Task Force to End
5 Financial Abuse Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Economic abuse is a serious issue impacting
2 vulnerable populations.

3 (2) Economic abuse occurs in 99 percent of
4 abusive relationships and is the number 1 reason
5 victims of abuse stay in or return to abusive rela-
6 tionships.

7 (3) Coerced debt is a form of economic abuse
8 and an avenue for abusers to limit the economic
9 independence of an individual.

10 (4) Coerced debt occurs when an abuser utilizes
11 coercive control or identity theft to incur debt in the
12 name of an individual.

13 (5) Coerced debt can occur via threat, force, or
14 fraud in the context of ongoing domestic abuse,
15 which can be physical, emotional, or financial.

16 (6) Coerced debt can subject a survivor to de-
17 stroyed credit, substantial payment expectations,
18 debt collection, and even bankruptcy.

19 (7) Addressing coerced debt requires a coordi-
20 nated approach across Federal, State, and local
21 agencies to ensure comprehensive support and pro-
22 tection for survivors.

23 (8) There is a need for an interagency task
24 force to develop and implement strategies to address
25 coerced debt and its impact on survivors.

1 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON COERCED DEBT.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
4 of the Treasury and the Director of the Bureau of Con-
5 sumer Financial Protection shall establish a task force to
6 be known as the Interagency Task Force on Coerced Debt
7 (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

8 (b) COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE.—

9 (1) CO-CHAIRS.—The Secretary of the Treasury
10 and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Finan-
11 cial Protection, or designees, shall serve as co-chairs
12 of the Task Force.

13 (2) MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall be com-
14 posed of—

15 (A) the Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services, or a designee;

17 (B) the Director of the Office of Family
18 Violence Prevention and Services, or a designee;

19 (C) the Director of the Office on Women’s
20 Health, or a designee;

21 (D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban
22 Development, or a designee;

23 (E) the Attorney General, or a designee;

24 (F) the Director of the Office on Violence
25 Against Women, or a designee;

1 (G) the Chairperson of the Federal Trade
2 Commission, or a designee; and

3 (H) representatives, appointed by the
4 President, from—

5 (i) a national domestic violence advo-
6 cacy organization;

7 (ii) a financial institution;

8 (iii) a credit reporting agency; and

9 (iv) a nonprofit organization that pro-
10 vides financial literacy and credit coun-
11 seling services.

12 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

13 (1) define the term “coerced debt”;

14 (2) identify the scope and impact of coerced
15 debt on domestic violence survivors, including the
16 prevalence of coerced debt and the financial, legal,
17 and social consequences of coerced debt for domestic
18 violence survivors;

19 (3) facilitate interagency collaboration and in-
20 formation sharing to ensure a coordinated response
21 to coerced debt, including training for law enforce-
22 ment, social service providers, and financial institu-
23 tions with respect to identifying and addressing co-
24 erced debt;

1 (4) engage with stakeholders, including domes-
2 tic violence survivors, advocacy organizations, and fi-
3 nancial institutions to inform the development of
4 policies and practices to address coerced debt; and

5 (5) provide recommendations for legislative and
6 regulatory changes to address coerced debt, includ-
7 ing Federal legislative proposals to protect domestic
8 violence survivors from coerced debt.

9 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 on which all the members of the Task Force have been
11 appointed, the Task Force shall publish on a public
12 website and submit to the Committee on Financial Serv-
13 ices of the House of Representatives, the Committee on
14 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the
15 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
16 tives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and
17 any other committee of the Congress that the Task Force
18 determines appropriate a report that contains the findings
19 and recommendations required under subsection (c).

20 (e) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the
21 date that is 60 days after the date of the submission to
22 the Congress of the report required under subsection (d).

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