Military, Law, and more ...

Hyde-Smith and Risch partner to stop SBA loan programs that discriminate against firearms-related businesses

Sen. Hyde-Smith Also Cosponsors Resolution Designating August as National Shooting Sports Month

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 6, 2025 – U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) last week teamed up with U.S. Senator James Risch (R-Idaho) to introduce legislation to stop the Small Business Administration (SBA) from using its loan programs to discriminate against firearms-related businesses.

The Equal Shot Act (S.2562) responds to concerns of politically-motivated discrimination against gun-related businesses under the Biden administration and seeks to ensure all eligible small businesses receive fair, unbiased treatment. Related to this unfair treatment, Hyde-Smith also cosponsored Risch's S.Res.342, a resolution that recognizes the contributions of small business firearm manufacturers and designates August as National Shooting Sports Month.

"It's high time we codify protections against discrimination for firearm manufacturers and related businesses. Gun owners and the small businesses that support them have faced dark years. It started with Operation Choke Point, an Obama initiative that pressured financial institutions to cut off services to lawful firearm-related businesses, and it continued under the last administration, which weaponized policies restricting Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens," Senator Hyde-Smith said. "The SBA needs to course correct and again be willing to support small manufacturers of firearms, shooting ranges, or other small businesses associated with the time-honored right to bear arms."

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith

"Federal agencies have no authority to deny critical support to small businesses based on ideological bias," Senator Risch said. "The Equal Shot Act defends the Second Amendment rights of Idaho's small business firearm industry and ensures these law-abiding Americans have fair access to resources that will help them thrive."

S.2562 would prohibit the SBA Administrator from adopting any policy, practice, guidance, or directive that would restrict a firearm entity, affiliate, or trade association from applying for financial assistance under the Small Business Act or Small Business Investment Act, including loans or loan guarantees.

The Equal Shot Act (S.2562) responds to concerns of politically-motivated discrimination against gun-related businesses under the Biden administration and seeks to ensure all eligible small businesses receive fair, unbiased treatment.

The National Rifle Association, Gunowners of America, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and National Association of Gun Rights support the legislation, which has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

The National Shooting Sports Month resolution recognizes the role of small manufacturers of firearms in preserving the rights of law-abiding Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights through shooting sports, including hunting, target shooting, and competitive marksmanship. It also credits shooting sports for promoting safe and responsible firearm handling, outdoor stewardship, and civil engagement through clubs, ranges, and competitions.

NSSF applauds President Trump's Executive Order ending banking discrimination and de-banking

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pressure banks to refuse banking services based on politics. However, during the prior Trump administration, large banks free from regulatory pressure simply privatized "woke" banking policies against conservative groups including members of the firearm industry.

This led to a proposed Fair Access to Banking rule by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) that the Biden administration stopped in January of 2021 before it could become effective.

"Operation Choke Point," executed by the Obama administration, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice (DOJ), along with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), to deny essential banking services to firearm-related businesses based on an ill-defined and amorphous "reputational risk" criteria.

NSSF continues to support Congressional efforts to codify these protections against banking discrimination by the Fair Access to Banking Act, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) as H.R. 987 and in the U.S. Senate by U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) as S. 401, as well as the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination (FIND) Act, introduced in the House by Rep. Jack Bergman (R-Mich.) as H.R. 45 and the Senate by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) as S. 137.

"Equity" in DEI is a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.
No DEI!!!

President Trump's Executive Order 'For All Americans' on Banking Discrimination and De-Banking

August 7, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. Financial institutions have engaged in unacceptable practices to restrict law-abiding individuals' and businesses' access to financial services on the basis of political or religious beliefs or lawful business activities. Some financial institutions participated in Government-directed surveillance programs targeting persons participating in activities and causes commonly associated with conservatism and the political right following the events that occurred at or near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. The Federal Government suggested that such institutions flag individuals who made transactions related to companies like "Cabela's" and "Bass Pro Shop" or who made peer-to-peer payments that involved terms like "Trump" or "MAGA," even though there was no specific evidence tying those individuals to criminal conduct.

Bank regulators have used supervisory scrutiny and other influence over regulated banks to direct or otherwise encourage politicized or unlawful debanking activities. "Operation Chokepoint," for example, was a well-documented and systemic means by which Federal regulators pushed banks to minimize their involvement with individuals and companies engaged in lawful activities and industries disfavored by regulators based on factors other than individualized, objective, risk-based standards.

As a result, individuals, their businesses, and their families have been subjected to debanking on the basis of their political affiliations, religious beliefs or lawful business activities, and have suffered frozen payrolls, debt and crushing interest, and other significant harms to their livelihoods, reputations, and financial well-being. Such practices are incompatible with a free society and the principle that the provision of banking services should be based on material, measurable, and justifiable risks. Such practices, when wielded to discriminate against customers and businesses in credit transactions due to their religion, are also unlawful under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.). They further undermine public trust in banking institutions and their regulators, discriminate against political beliefs and free expression of those beliefs, and weaponize a politicized regulatory state.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States that no American should be denied access to financial services because of their constitutionally or statutorily protected beliefs, affiliations, or political views, and to ensure that politicized or unlawful debanking is not used as a tool to inhibit such beliefs, affiliations, or political views. Banking decisions must instead be made on the basis of individualized, objective, and risk-based analyses.

Sec. 3. Definitions. (a) The term "politicized or unlawful debanking" refers to an act by a bank, savings association, credit union, or other financial services provider to directly or indirectly adversely restrict access to, or adversely modify the conditions of, accounts, loans, or other banking products or financial services of any customer or potential customer on the basis of the customer's or potential customer's political or religious beliefs, or on the basis of the customer's or potential customer's lawful business activities that the financial service provider disagrees with or disfavors for political reasons.

(b) The term "Federal banking regulators" refers to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal member agencies of the Financial Stability Oversight Council with supervisory and regulatory authority over banks, savings associations, or credit unions.

Sec. 4. Removing Reputation Risk and Politicized or Unlawful Debanking. (a) Within 180 days of the date of this order, each appropriate Federal banking regulator shall, to the greatest extent permitted by law, remove the use of reputation risk or equivalent concepts that could result in politicized or unlawful debanking, as well as any other considerations that could be used to engage in such debanking, from their guidance documents, manuals, and other materials (other than existing regulations or other materials requiring notice-and-comment rulemaking) used to regulate or examine financial institutions over which they have jurisdiction. The removal of such concepts shall be made clear by each appropriate Federal banking regulator through formal guidance to their examiners. The Federal banking regulators shall also consider rescinding or amending existing regulations, consistent with applicable law, to eliminate or amend any regulations that could result in politicized or unlawful debanking and to ensure that any regulated firm's or individual's reputation is considered for regulatory, supervisory, banking, or enforcement purposes solely to the extent necessary to reach a reasonable and apolitical risk-based assessment.

(b) The SBA shall, within 60 days of the date of this order, give notice to all financial institutions with which it guarantees loans under its lending programs, requiring that each financial institution that is subject to the SBA's jurisdiction and supervision:

(i) within 120 days of the date of this order, makes reasonable efforts to identify and reinstate any previous clients of the institution or any subsidiaries denied service through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice related to a program or function of the Office of Capital Access, with notice of the reinstatement sent to the victim;

(ii) within 120 days of the date of this order, identifies all potential clients denied access to financial services provided by the financial institution or any subsidiaries through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice related to a program or function of the Office of Capital Access, and provides notice to each victim advising of the denied access and the renewed option to engage in such

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