119TH CONGRESS

2D SESSION

H. R. _____

Foundational Black American Neighborhood Banking and Credit Fairness Act

To strengthen equal access to banking, mortgage lending, consumer credit, and small-business financing; prevent discriminatory and geographically exclusionary lending practices; establish transparency and accountability requirements for automated and algorithmic credit systems; expand access to financial institutions and affordable capital in historically underserved communities, including communities with substantial populations of Foundational Black Americans; strengthen enforcement of Federal fair-lending laws; and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September __, 2026

Mr./Ms. ___________________ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to such other committees as may have jurisdiction, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

A BILL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the **“Foundational Black American Neighborhood Banking and Credit Fairness Act of 2026”** or the **“FBA Banking and Credit Fairness Act of 2026.”**

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Title VI — Credit Reporting and Alternative Credit

Title VII — Data Collection and Transparency

Title VIII — Community Reinvestment and Banking Deserts

Title IX — Enforcement and Remedies

Title X — Administration and Implementation

TITLE I — FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND DEFINITIONS

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. Equal access to lawful and responsibly underwritten financial services is important to homeownership, entrepreneurship, household stability, community investment, and intergenerational wealth creation.
2. The United States has a documented history of racial discrimination in housing and credit markets, including redlining, restrictive housing practices, discriminatory mortgage underwriting, unequal access to financial institutions, and other barriers to credit.
3. Such historical practices have affected the location of investment, homeownership opportunities, business formation, property values, and access to mainstream financial services in numerous communities.
4. The effects of historic discrimination may persist through geographic patterns of financial investment, access to bank branches, homeownership, property valuation, business financing, and household wealth.
5. Foundational Black American communities are among the communities that have experienced historic barriers to equal participation in housing, banking, lending, and wealth-building institutions.
6. Congress has previously addressed discrimination in credit and housing through statutes including the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, and the Community Reinvestment Act.
7. Modern financial technology has substantially altered the process by which credit is advertised, priced, underwritten, approved, denied, and serviced.
8. Automated decision systems, artificial intelligence, machine-learning systems, alternative-data systems, and algorithmic risk models may improve efficiency and expand access to credit when responsibly designed and used.
9. Such technologies may also reproduce or amplify discriminatory patterns when models rely upon biased data, inappropriate geographic information, insufficiently validated variables, or variables functioning as proxies for protected characteristics.
10. Consumers and small businesses should receive understandable and accurate explanations when they are denied credit or offered materially less favorable credit terms.
11. Geographic exclusion from financial services can impair the economic vitality of neighborhoods even when no individual applicant can readily identify the cause of the exclusion.
12. The continued existence of communities with inadequate access to mainstream banking services warrants enhanced Federal monitoring and targeted community investment.

13. Small businesses are essential sources of employment, innovation, neighborhood stability, and wealth creation.
14. Entrepreneurs in historically underserved communities may face difficulties obtaining affordable and appropriately structured business capital.
15. Strengthening transparency in small-business lending can improve enforcement of fair-lending laws and help identify unmet community credit needs.
16. Consumers should have meaningful opportunities to correct inaccurate credit information and, when appropriate and voluntarily authorized, demonstrate creditworthiness through reliable information not traditionally reflected in conventional credit reports.
17. Federal financial regulators require sufficient information, authority, coordination, and resources to detect and remedy unlawful lending discrimination.
18. Fair-lending enforcement should protect consumers while preserving legitimate, empirically supported underwriting practices and the safety and soundness of financial institutions.
19. Nothing in this Act should require a creditor to approve an applicant who does not satisfy lawful, documented, nondiscriminatory, and demonstrably relevant underwriting requirements.
20. Congress has an interest in ensuring that lawful creditworthiness standards are applied consistently and transparently to similarly situated applicants.

SEC. 102. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

1. to strengthen enforcement against unlawful discrimination in lending and banking;
2. to improve access to responsible banking services in underserved communities;
3. to identify and reduce banking deserts;
4. to strengthen mortgage access and homeownership opportunities;
5. to improve access to responsible small-business financing;
6. to establish transparency and accountability standards for automated credit decision systems;
7. to provide consumers with meaningful explanations and review procedures for adverse credit decisions;
8. to improve Federal collection and analysis of fair-lending data;
9. to encourage investment in historically underserved communities;
10. to protect the accuracy and integrity of consumer credit information;
11. to improve coordination among Federal fair-lending enforcement agencies; and
12. to provide effective remedies for violations of this Act.

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) APPLICANT.

The term “applicant” means any individual or business that requests or has requested an extension of credit from a creditor.

(2) AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEM.

The term “automated decision system” means any computational process, including an artificial intelligence system, machine-learning model, statistical model, credit-scoring model, or algorithmic system, that makes, recommends, materially influences, or substantially assists a decision concerning—

(A) eligibility for credit;

(B) approval or denial;

(C) interest rates;

(D) credit limits;

(E) collateral requirements;

(F) loan terms;

(G) servicing;

(H) refinancing;

(I) loss mitigation; or

(J) another material aspect of a credit transaction.

(3) BANKING DESERT.

The term “banking desert” means a geographic area determined by the appropriate Federal financial regulator to have inadequate reasonable access to insured depository institution branches or comparable mainstream financial services, taking into consideration population, transportation, broadband availability, household income, business activity, geographic distance, disability access, and other relevant factors.

(4) BUREAU.

The term “Bureau” means the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

(5) COVERED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

The term includes a bank, credit union, mortgage lender, mortgage broker, finance company, fintech lender, online lender, small-business lender, or other person regularly extending credit, as further defined by regulation.

(6) FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

For purposes of the programs and research authorized by this Act, the term means a community or population in the United States containing a substantial population of Black Americans with multigenerational historical ties to the United States, including descendants of persons subjected to slavery or legally sanctioned racial segregation in the United States.

Nothing in this definition shall be construed to diminish any protection otherwise provided under Federal civil-rights law to any person.

(7) HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.

The term means a geographic community that demonstrates significant historical or continuing deficiencies in access to mainstream credit, banking, mortgage lending, or business financing, based upon objective criteria established by regulation.

(8) SMALL BUSINESS.

The term has the meaning established by the Small Business Administration, except where another definition is required under an applicable Federal lending statute.

TITLE II — EQUAL ACCESS TO BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATORY DENIAL OF FINANCIAL SERVICES.

A covered financial institution may not discriminate in the availability, terms, conditions, pricing, servicing, advertising, or delivery of a covered financial product or service in violation of applicable Federal civil-rights or fair-lending law.

This prohibition applies to—

1. deposit accounts;
2. mortgage credit;
3. consumer loans;
4. credit cards;
5. small-business financing;
6. home-equity products;
7. refinancing;
8. lines of credit; and
9. other products designated by regulation.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit legitimate risk-based decisions based on lawful and consistently applied factors demonstrably related to creditworthiness, fraud prevention, compliance, or safety and soundness.

SEC. 202. BANKING DESERT IDENTIFICATION.

Not later than 18 months after enactment, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Federal Reserve Board, FDIC, OCC, NCUA, and Bureau, shall establish a national methodology for identifying banking deserts.

A national Banking Access Map shall be published and updated at least annually.

The map shall identify—

(A) bank and credit-union branch locations;

(B) branch openings and closures;

(C) deposit-taking ATMs;

(D) reasonable travel distances to banking facilities;

(E) availability of community development financial institutions;

(F) broadband limitations affecting digital banking access; and

(G) other indicators of meaningful access to financial services.

SEC. 203. COMMUNITY BANKING ACCESS PLANS.

A covered depository institution proposing a branch closure within a banking desert or area reasonably expected to become a banking desert shall submit a Community Banking Access Plan to its appropriate Federal regulator.

The plan shall explain—

1. the reason for the closure;
2. anticipated effects upon customers;
3. availability of alternative branches;
4. availability of accessible digital services;
5. transportation considerations;
6. services available to elderly and disabled customers;
7. alternatives considered; and
8. measures proposed to reduce disruption.

SEC. 204. BASIC BANKING SERVICES.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish a competitive grant program encouraging participating financial institutions to offer affordable transaction accounts in underserved communities.

Eligible products may include—

(A) low-cost checking accounts;

(B) savings accounts without excessive minimum-balance requirements;

(C) low-cost domestic electronic transfers;

(D) reasonably priced check-cashing services for account holders;

(E) small-dollar credit products with transparent repayment terms; and

(F) financial education services.

Participation shall be voluntary.

SEC. 205. BRANCH CLOSURE TRANSPARENCY.

Federal banking regulators shall maintain a publicly searchable database containing material information regarding bank branch openings and closures.

The database shall permit analysis by census tract and other appropriate geographic units.

TITLE III — MORTGAGE AND HOMEOWNERSHIP CREDIT FAIRNESS

SEC. 301. EQUAL MORTGAGE ACCESS.

Mortgage creditors shall maintain written underwriting standards sufficient to permit regulators to determine whether similarly situated applicants receive consistent treatment.

A creditor may use legitimate considerations relating to—

1. income;
2. assets;
3. debt obligations;
4. credit history;
5. collateral;
6. ability to repay;
7. documented fraud risk; and
8. other lawful factors demonstrably related to credit risk.

SEC. 302. PROHIBITION ON MODERN REDLINING.

It shall be unlawful, where prohibited under Federal fair-lending law, for a creditor to intentionally avoid, discourage, restrict, or materially disadvantage mortgage lending in a geographic area because of the race, color, or national origin of residents or prospective borrowers.

Evidence relevant to enforcement may include—

(A) branch distribution;

(B) mortgage application patterns;

(C) marketing practices;

(D) loan-officer assignments;

(E) geographic service areas;

(F) lending volume;

(G) similarly situated comparator markets;

(H) digital advertising practices; and

(I) other relevant evidence.

SEC. 303. MORTGAGE UNDERWRITING TRANSPARENCY.

A mortgage applicant receiving an adverse action shall receive the disclosures otherwise required by Federal law and regulations, including sufficiently specific principal reasons for the decision.

A creditor may not satisfy an explanation requirement solely by stating—

“failed underwriting standards,”
“insufficient score,”
“model decision,”
“algorithmic determination,”

or another substantially similar generic explanation when Federal law requires more specific reasons.

SEC. 304. APPRAISAL AND VALUATION FAIRNESS.

Federal financial regulators shall strengthen procedures for identifying potential discrimination in residential property valuation.

Consumers shall receive clear information concerning—

1. their right to receive applicable valuations;
2. procedures for identifying material factual errors;
3. reconsideration-of-value procedures where available; and
4. procedures for reporting suspected unlawful discrimination.

SEC. 305. ALTERNATIVE CREDIT INFORMATION.

Federal regulators shall study and facilitate safe and responsible methods through which creditors may consider, with consumer authorization—

(A) rental-payment history;

(B) utility-payment history;

(C) telecommunications-payment history;

(D) documented recurring financial obligations;

(E) verified cash-flow information; and

(F) other reliable information predictive of repayment.

No creditor shall be required to approve a loan solely because alternative data is available.

SEC. 306. COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERSHIP INITIATIVES.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may award competitive grants to qualified governmental and nonprofit entities providing—

1. homebuyer education;
2. foreclosure-prevention counseling;
3. down-payment counseling;
4. credit counseling;
5. fair-housing education; and
6. assistance accessing lawful mortgage products.

Priority may be given to programs serving historically underserved communities.

TITLE IV — SMALL-BUSINESS CREDIT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SEC. 401. EQUAL ACCESS TO BUSINESS CREDIT.

A creditor engaged in small-business lending shall maintain nondiscriminatory underwriting and pricing standards consistent with applicable Federal law.

Legitimate business considerations may include revenue, cash flow, debt, collateral, industry risk, operating history, repayment capacity, and other lawful credit-risk factors.

SEC. 402. SMALL-BUSINESS LENDING TRANSPARENCY.

The Bureau shall maintain a system, consistent with applicable law, for collecting and analyzing small-business credit information sufficient to assist in identifying—

1. potential lending disparities;
2. geographic credit shortages;
3. approval and denial patterns;
4. pricing differences;
5. application patterns; and
6. emerging community credit needs.

Personally identifiable information shall not be publicly disclosed.

SEC. 403. COMMUNITY SMALL-BUSINESS CREDIT PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, shall establish a **Community Small-Business Credit Program**.

The program may provide grants, loan-loss reserves, guarantees, or other lawful credit-enhancement assistance to eligible lenders serving qualified businesses in historically underserved communities.

Participating lenders shall maintain prudent underwriting standards.

SEC. 404. MICROENTERPRISE FINANCING.

The Small Business Administration may establish or expand programs providing responsible financing for qualified microenterprises.

Priority may be provided to institutions demonstrating substantial service to banking deserts and historically underserved communities.

SEC. 405. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Eligible technical assistance may include—

(A) business planning;

(B) accounting;

(C) bookkeeping;

(D) cash-flow management;

(E) loan readiness;

(F) Federal contracting education;

(G) financial management; and

(H) credit education.

TITLE V — AUTOMATED AND ALGORITHMIC CREDIT DECISIONS

SEC. 501. COVERED AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEMS.

This title applies when a covered financial institution uses an automated decision system to materially determine or influence a credit decision.

SEC. 502. ALGORITHMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENTS.

Before deploying a high-impact automated credit decision system, a covered institution shall conduct and document an impact assessment appropriate to the system's risk.

The assessment shall address—

1. intended purpose;

2. categories of input data;
3. data quality;
4. model validation;
5. accuracy;
6. explainability;
7. foreseeable discriminatory risks;
8. proxy variables;
9. geographic effects;
10. monitoring procedures; and
11. corrective-action procedures.

SEC. 503. EXPLAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS.

No covered creditor may rely upon the complexity, opacity, proprietary nature, or third-party origin of an automated system as a justification for failing to provide an explanation required by Federal law.

Where an adverse-action explanation is legally required, the creditor shall be capable of identifying the actual principal factors supporting that decision.

SEC. 504. INDEPENDENT TESTING AND AUDITING.

Covered institutions using high-impact automated credit systems shall conduct periodic testing for compliance with applicable fair-lending and consumer-protection requirements.

The appropriate Federal regulator may require independent review where warranted by—

(A) model complexity;

(B) lending volume;

(C) significant consumer harm;

(D) prior violations; or

(E) unexplained material disparities.

SEC. 505. PROHIBITED DATA AND PROXY DISCRIMINATION.

A creditor may not intentionally use a variable as a substitute or proxy for a protected characteristic for the purpose of accomplishing discrimination prohibited by Federal law.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit—

1. collection of information required by law;
2. fair-lending testing;
3. legally authorized research;
4. compliance monitoring; or
5. information expressly authorized by another Federal statute.

SEC. 506. HUMAN REVIEW AND APPEALS.

For significant consumer or small-business credit products designated by the Bureau, a consumer denied credit primarily through an automated system shall be provided a reasonable process to—

(A) request reconsideration;

(B) identify materially inaccurate information;

(C) submit relevant supplemental information; and

(D) obtain meaningful review consistent with regulations issued under this Act.

The Bureau may establish reasonable exceptions for transactions requiring immediate decisions or presenting minimal consumer risk.

SEC. 507. RECORD RETENTION.

Covered creditors shall retain sufficient documentation concerning automated credit decisions to permit appropriate Federal regulators to evaluate compliance.

Regulations shall establish retention periods appropriate to the product and risk.

TITLE VI — CREDIT REPORTING AND ALTERNATIVE CREDIT

SEC. 601. ACCURACY AND DISPUTE PROTECTIONS.

Consumer reporting agencies and furnishers remain subject to all applicable requirements of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

The Bureau shall establish enhanced procedures, consistent with existing law, for investigating systemic patterns of materially inaccurate information affecting access to credit.

SEC. 602. RENTAL, UTILITY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENT DATA.

The Bureau shall conduct a study concerning responsible mechanisms for consumers voluntarily to use positive rental, utility, and telecommunications payment information to demonstrate creditworthiness.

The study shall evaluate—

1. predictive value;
2. data accuracy;
3. dispute rights;
4. privacy;
5. costs;
6. risks of negative reporting;
7. effects on consumers with limited credit histories; and
8. appropriate consumer consent.

SEC. 603. CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION.

No alternative payment information authorized under a program established pursuant to this Act shall be obtained from a consumer's private financial account without appropriate authorization except where otherwise permitted by law.

SEC. 604. CREDIT-BUILDING PRODUCTS.

Treasury may establish grants supporting qualified nonprofit organizations, community development financial institutions, and insured financial institutions offering responsible credit-building products.

TITLE VII — DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 701. NATIONAL FAIR-LENDING DATABASE.

The Bureau, in cooperation with Federal financial regulators, shall develop a secure analytical system integrating lawfully available information concerning consumer, mortgage, and small-business credit markets.

The system shall support detection of potential—

(A) geographic lending disparities;

(B) unexplained denial patterns;

(C) pricing disparities;

(D) branch-access disparities;

(E) mortgage-access disparities; and

(F) small-business credit shortages.

SEC. 702. GEOGRAPHIC LENDING ANALYSIS.

Regulators shall have authority, consistent with applicable law, to examine lending patterns by—

1. census tract;
2. metropolitan statistical area;
3. rural area;
4. banking desert;
5. historically underserved community; and

6. other relevant geographic classifications.

SEC. 703. PUBLIC REPORTING.

The Bureau shall publish an annual **Fair Banking and Credit Access Report** containing aggregated information concerning—

(A) mortgage lending;

(B) small-business lending;

(C) banking access;

(D) banking deserts;

(E) branch openings and closures;

(F) complaints involving credit discrimination;

(G) enforcement activity; and

(H) material trends identified by Federal regulators.

Reports shall protect personally identifiable information and legitimate confidential business information as required by law.

SEC. 704. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this Act authorizes publication of personally identifiable financial information.

Federal agencies shall employ appropriate privacy, cybersecurity, aggregation, and disclosure-limitation safeguards.

TITLE VIII — COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND BANKING DESERTS

SEC. 801. COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT CONSIDERATION.

Consistent with the Community Reinvestment Act and applicable regulations, Federal banking agencies shall consider lawful qualifying activities addressing documented community credit needs.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require unsafe or unsound lending.

SEC. 802. BANKING DESERT REMEDIATION.

Treasury shall establish a **Banking Desert Remediation Program** providing competitive assistance for—

1. new branches;
2. credit-union facilities;
3. community development financial institutions;
4. shared banking facilities;
5. mobile branches;
6. accessible ATMs;
7. secure digital-banking infrastructure; and
8. financial counseling centers.

Applicants shall demonstrate measurable community need.

SEC. 803. COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION GRANTS.

Qualified community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, credit unions, and community banks may apply for competitive grants to expand responsible financial services in eligible communities.

Grant recipients shall report measurable outcomes.

SEC. 804. MOBILE AND DIGITAL BANKING SERVICES.

Programs under this title may support digital and mobile banking where such services meaningfully improve financial access.

Digital availability alone shall not automatically establish that a community has adequate banking access.

TITLE IX — ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES

SEC. 901. FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT.

This Act shall be enforced, according to jurisdiction, by—

1. the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;
2. the Department of Justice;
3. the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency;
4. the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
5. the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;
6. the National Credit Union Administration;
7. the Federal Trade Commission; and
8. other Federal agencies granted jurisdiction by law.

SEC. 902. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT.

An appropriate regulator may—

(A) conduct examinations;

(B) require production of records;

(C) issue subpoenas where otherwise authorized;

(D) order corrective action;

(E) require restitution;

(F) impose applicable civil money penalties;

(G) require remediation of unlawful models or practices; and

(H) refer matters to the Attorney General.

SEC. 903. CIVIL ACTIONS.

An aggrieved person may bring a civil action for a violation of a substantive right expressly established by this Act, subject to the limitations and procedures provided herein and by regulations implementing this Act.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private cause of action solely for violation of a reporting obligation owed exclusively to a Federal agency unless expressly provided by Congress.

SEC. 904. REMEDIES.

Where authorized, a court may award—

1. actual damages;
2. equitable relief;
3. declaratory relief;
4. injunctive relief;
5. restitution;
6. reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and
7. such other relief expressly authorized by law.

Punitive damages shall be available only where expressly authorized by applicable Federal law.

SEC. 905. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

No covered institution may discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass, or otherwise discriminate against an employee because the employee lawfully—

(A) reports a suspected violation;

(B) provides information to a regulator;

(C) participates in an investigation; or

(D) objects to a practice the employee reasonably believes violates this Act.

Remedies may include reinstatement, back pay, compensatory damages, and reasonable attorney's fees.

SEC. 906. STATE ENFORCEMENT.

A State attorney general may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States district court to enforce applicable provisions of this Act on behalf of residents of that State, subject to notice and coordination procedures established by regulation.

Nothing herein shall prevent Federal intervention in such an action where authorized by law.

SEC. 907. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

1. limit rights under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act;
2. limit rights under the Fair Housing Act;
3. limit rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act;
4. limit requirements under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act;
5. limit obligations under the Community Reinvestment Act;
6. authorize discrimination otherwise prohibited by law; or
7. preempt a State law providing greater consumer protection, except to the extent compliance with both laws is impossible.

TITLE X — ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 1001. INTERAGENCY FAIR BANKING TASK FORCE.

There is established an **Interagency Fair Banking and Community Credit Access Task Force**.

The Task Force shall include representatives from—

1. Treasury;
2. the Department of Justice;
3. HUD;
4. the CFPB;
5. the Federal Reserve;
6. FDIC;
7. OCC;
8. NCUA;
9. SBA;
10. FTC; and
11. such other agencies as the President determines appropriate.

The Task Force shall coordinate Federal efforts concerning lending discrimination, banking deserts, mortgage access, small-business credit, algorithmic lending, and financial-service access.

SEC. 1002. RULEMAKING.

Not later than 24 months after enactment, the appropriate Federal agencies shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this Act.

Agencies shall provide appropriate notice and opportunity for public comment.

Regulations shall account for differences in—

(A) institution size;

(B) lending volume;

(C) business model;

(D) technological complexity;

(E) consumer risk; and

(F) safety-and-soundness considerations.

SEC. 1003. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 years after enactment, and annually thereafter, the Interagency Task Force shall submit a report to Congress describing—

1. banking deserts identified;
2. branch-access trends;
3. mortgage lending patterns;
4. small-business lending patterns;
5. fair-lending enforcement actions;
6. developments involving algorithmic underwriting;
7. consumer complaints;
8. program expenditures;
9. measurable program outcomes; and
10. legislative recommendations.

SEC. 1004. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal years 2027 through 2036.

Congress may separately appropriate funds for—

(A) Banking Desert Remediation Program grants;

(B) Community Small-Business Credit Program assistance;

(C) community financial institution grants;

(D) technical assistance;

(E) fair-lending supervision;

(F) technology and data infrastructure; and

(G) Federal enforcement.

No funds shall be obligated except as provided in appropriations Acts.

SEC. 1005. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

SEC. 1006. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) GENERAL RULE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.

(b) RULEMAKING-DEPENDENT REQUIREMENTS.

A requirement for which implementing regulations are necessary shall take effect on the date established by the responsible agency, but not later than 30 months after enactment unless Congress expressly provides otherwise.

(c) EXISTING CONTRACTS.

Nothing in this Act shall retroactively invalidate an otherwise lawful credit agreement entered into before the applicable effective date.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.

Conduct occurring before the applicable effective date shall remain governed by the law in effect at the time of such conduct.

CONGRESSIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the United States that access to banking and credit should depend upon lawful and demonstrably relevant financial considerations rather than unlawful racial discrimination or the racial composition of a neighborhood.

Congress further declares that the development of modern financial technology should not diminish existing civil-rights protections or prevent consumers from understanding material decisions affecting their access to credit.

The United States shall promote a financial system in which historically underserved communities, including communities with substantial populations of Foundational Black Americans, have meaningful access to responsible banking, mortgage lending, homeownership financing, and small-business capital while maintaining prudent underwriting, consumer protection, financial stability, and the safety and soundness of financial institutions.

END OF BILL