

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Michael and Susan Martin  
Owners of Austin Wood Recycling  
Hutto, Texas**

**November 19, 2024**

We are proud Texans and small business owners who need the committee to oppose the Credit Card Competition Act, which threatens to disrupt a credit card system that is critical to our operations. Our land-clearing business relies on the rewards we earn through our business credit cards to offset the high costs of travel across Texas, keeping us competitive. For us, these rewards aren't just a perk; they're a critical component of how we manage expenses and sustain our business.

The security and reliability of the current credit card processing network is invaluable to us. As a small business, we trust the robust security measures, which help protect us from fraudulent transactions and give our customers peace of mind. The proposed legislation, however, would force businesses like ours to process payments through untested, potentially insecure networks that lack these protections. This would jeopardize not only our financial security but also the trust we've worked hard to build with our customers.

For small businesses, credit card payments are among the safest methods we can use. Alternatives like checks can bounce, and cash brings added costs, higher theft risk, and the chance of counting errors.

We ask you to stand with small businesses across Texas and oppose the Credit Card Competition Act. Changing a system that currently supports us so well could have severe repercussions for both businesses and consumers.

Michael & Susan Martin,  
Owners of Austin Wood Recycling

# **Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Ashley Nordman  
Owner of AN Skin & Beauty  
O'Fallon, Missouri**

**November 19, 2024**

As the committee reviews the current credit card payment process, I urge you to consider the essential value it brings to small businesses like mine. I am the owner of AN Skin and Beauty, a skincare company based in Missouri, and I am deeply concerned that the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) would pose serious risks to the security of digital payments and the financial stability of Missouri's small businesses.

The CCCA would require credit cards to use a range of untested and potentially unsafe payment networks. For small business owners like myself, this creates a burden of added risk and complexity that we simply don't have the time or resources to manage. Moreover, the proposed benefits of the switch – promised reductions in transaction fees – will benefit big box retailers who do business at a scale that allows them to negotiate lower rates. Small businesses like mine are unlikely to see the savings, but very likely to bear the financial and reputational costs.

My customers trust that their transactions on my website are secure and private. When they submit their credit card information, they count on it being processed safely, with minimal risk of fraud or data breaches. The CCCA would jeopardize this security, eroding the peace of mind that both my customers and I depend on. Large retailers might absorb these risks, but small businesses cannot afford to take that chance.

Moreover, losing credit card rewards would be another setback. These rewards directly support my business, helping me cover expenses, support my employees, and sustain growth.

The existing payment framework is safe, efficient, and vital to small businesses, and Congress must prioritize protecting it.

Ashley Nordman,  
Owner of AN Skin & Beauty

# **Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Daniel Maloney  
Co-Owner of Sol Cacao  
Bronx, New York**

**November 19, 2024**

My name is Daniel Maloney, and I am the Co-Founder of Sol Cacao, a Black-owned craft chocolate company based in the Bronx. I am writing to share my perspective on how the proposed Credit Card Competition Act could negatively impact small businesses like mine.

Access to credit was critical in our early days. Like many minority-owned businesses, we faced challenges securing traditional loans. Credit cards became our lifeline, helping us purchase equipment, manage cash flow, and reinvest profits. Flexible payment terms and rewards programs were essential, particularly during the pandemic, when we pivoted to online sales and relied on electronic payments to sustain operations.

I am deeply concerned about the bill currently before the committee. The Credit Card Competition Act poses significant risks to small businesses like mine. First, it could reduce the funding banks and credit unions use to extend loans, making it harder for entrepreneurs to access capital. Second, it jeopardizes credit card rewards programs, which studies suggest could cost small businesses \$1 billion annually. These rewards have been crucial for covering operational expenses.

Finally, by introducing less secure payment networks, the bill could increase the risk of fraud and cyberattacks—threats that small businesses are particularly vulnerable to.

Congress needs to focus on policies that empower small businesses, not hinder them. We need support, not barriers, to continue contributing to our communities and economies.

Daniel Maloney  
Co-Owner of Sol Cacao

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**TJ Tillman**

**Owner of Level One Arcade Bar & Outcast Doughnuts  
Gilbert, Arizona**

**November 19, 2024**

I am the owner of multiple hospitality businesses in Arizona, including an arcade bar and a donut bar, and as you consider the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) during the Judiciary Committee hearing, I want you to understand the harm it will cause to businesses like mine and, ultimately, to our customers.

During the pandemic, credit card acceptance was crucial to keeping our doors open when we shifted from in-person sales to to-go orders. Without the ability to accept cards, we would have lost critical revenue streams needed to maintain operations, pay our employees, and support our community. Accepting credit cards allowed us to adapt quickly to changing conditions and gave our customers a safe, contactless payment option when cash was no longer feasible.

My businesses depend on secure, efficient, and reliable payment processing. Each year, we process millions of dollars in credit card payments—transactions that are vital to keeping our doors open. Accepting credit cards means that we can receive payments quickly, pay our staff on time, maintain inventory, and cover other operational costs. Without a secure and streamlined payment process, the alternative would force us to rely on cash, which carries a high risk of theft, miscounting, and costly handling fees.

The CCCA threatens to weaken the security of these payments. By limiting our ability to use reliable networks, it could expose my business and customers to greater risks of fraud and data breaches. Small businesses like mine simply can't afford that kind of threat. Our customers expect their transactions to be handled securely, and any compromise would not only damage our reputation but would be a direct hit to consumer confidence in our business.

Additionally, the credit card rewards we earn are essential to our operations. These rewards help us offset travel expenses, allowing us to attend industry conferences, and explore new growth opportunities.

The CCCA could have severe consequences for small businesses like mine that rely on secure, dependable, and rewarding payment processing. I respectfully ask you to consider the impact this legislation would have on the small businesses that are the backbone of our economy.

TJ Tillman,  
Level 1 Arcade Bar & Outcast Doughnuts



**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Molly Ashton  
Crumbl Cookies Franchisee  
Gilbert, Arizona**

**November 19, 2024**

As a Crumbl Cookies franchise owner, I am deeply concerned about the harmful impact the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) would have on businesses like mine. The Senate Judiciary Committee needs to recognize the vital role that the current credit card payment network plays for small businesses. The proposed legislation would introduce untested and likely less secure payment networks, risking the financial security of our customers and our operations. Beyond security risks, the CCCA would remove credit card rewards programs that small businesses rely on to manage costs and offer benefits to employees.

For us, using credit cards to cover business expenses has meant more than just convenience—it's helped us earn rewards we can reinvest in our business and our team. These rewards have allowed us to cover costs and even fund employee perks, like regular lunches and last year's special trip we sponsored for our manager and her husband. At a time when employee retention is a serious concern for business owners, being able to show our appreciation for longtime staff with rewards points is crucial.

The CCCA threatens to eliminate these rewards, which would be a serious setback to our ability to support our employees, manage expenses, and keep our bottom line healthy. Big-box retailers have the resources to negotiate with payment networks and select options that benefit them, but small businesses don't have this leverage. We can't afford to lose the benefits we depend on.

This bill would put small businesses at an even greater disadvantage in the marketplace. Small businesses are the backbone of our nation, and I ask Congress to stand with us. Please oppose this bill and protect the systems that allow small businesses to thrive.

Molly Ashton,  
Crumbl Cookies Franchise Owner

# **Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Erwin Mosqueda  
Owner of Top Gun M.O.T. Design Services  
Miami, Florida**

**November 19, 2024**

As a small business owner in Florida, my day-to-day operations hinge on the efficiency and security provided by the existing credit card processing system. Quick and secure transactions aren't just conveniences—they are the lifeblood of my business, ensuring payments are processed without disruption and allowing me to pay my employees on time. As you review the current credit card payment system, you need to recognize its indispensable value to small businesses like mine.

I rely on credit cards to purchase most of my equipment, which helps me build credit and establish trust with suppliers. The rewards programs associated with these credit cards are a significant boon, enabling me to earn benefits that I pass on to my employees. Each quarter, I use these rewards to fund our Employee of the Month appreciation program, boosting morale and recognizing the hard work and dedication of my team.

The proposed Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) threatens to dismantle these critical advantages by forcing credit cards onto untested and potentially unsafe payment networks. This shift compromises payment security and puts the financial data of both my business and my clients at risk. It also jeopardizes the rewards programs that are essential to my employee recognition efforts, directly impacting my team's motivation and satisfaction.

I am deeply concerned that the CCCA will primarily benefit big-box retailers, not small businesses like mine. A study from the University of Miami found that the five largest retailers in the country stand to save over \$1 billion from this bill, while small businesses are not expected to see significant savings.

Small businesses cannot afford legislation that disrupts the systems we rely on and undermines our ability to operate effectively. I call on Congress to reject the CCCA and protect the efficiency and security of the current credit card payment system that is so crucial to businesses like mine.

Erwin Mosqueda,  
Owner of Top Gun M.O.T. Design Services

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Edy Massih  
Owner of Edy's Grocer  
Brooklyn, New York**

**November 19, 2024**

My name is Edy Massih, and I own Edy's Grocer, a Lebanese deli and sandwich shop located in the heart of Brooklyn, NY. I'm submitting testimony to express my deep concern about the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) and its potentially devastating impact on small businesses like mine.

At Edy's Grocer, 99% of our sales rely on credit card transactions. This system isn't just a convenience—it's essential to our business. Credit cards allow us to receive payments quickly and securely, which fosters trust and keeps our customers coming back. If the CCCA is enacted, it would disrupt this secure system, introducing less-reliable payment networks that increase our risk of fraud and data breaches. A single fraudulent transaction could cost us more than just money—it could mean the loss of a valued customer's trust and future business.

Additionally, the credit card rewards we earn are vital. We use these rewards to offset costs, reinvest in improvements, and fund team-building activities that keep our staff engaged and motivated. The CCCA threatens these benefits, making it harder for small businesses like mine to grow and thrive.

Small businesses need policies that help us succeed—not legislation that puts us at a disadvantage. The committee must consider the real impact this bill would have on small businesses across the country and oppose the Credit Card Competition Act.

Edy Massih,  
Owner of Edy's Grocer

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**James Rivenbark  
Owner of Jars Hospitality  
Fort Mill, South Carolina**

**November 19, 2024**

As you consider the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) during the Judiciary Committee hearing, I urge you to recognize the critical role the current credit card framework plays for small businesses across the nation. As the owner of Jars Hospitality Group with restaurant locations in North and South Carolina, I depend on credit cards to streamline our operations, ensure smooth transactions, and enable cost-saving benefits that allow us to reinvest in our business and employees.

The CCCA would disrupt this essential structure, mandating the use of unproven payment networks that would compromise the security of credit card transactions. For us, the impact of exposing our customers' financial information to untested networks is not just a risk—it's a threat to trust. Just one data breach can drive customers away permanently.

Proponents of the CCCA argue it will save costs for small businesses, but research, including a University of Miami study, suggests the opposite. Small businesses stand to lose an estimated \$1 billion in credit card rewards—benefits that were a lifeline during the pandemic, helping us retain staff and weather financial strain. In my businesses, I have used credit card rewards at different times both to provide health care benefits to my employees and to purchase supplies for the restaurant. Rewards programs aren't just "nice to have" – they are a crucial element of my businesses' bottom line.

The safety, stability, and support that the current credit card framework provides are foundational to my business's success. The CCCA is a misguided proposal that would weaken small businesses at a time when we need support, not further obstacles. I urge Congress to reject the CCCA and focus on policies that truly promote growth, security, and resilience.

James Rivenbark,  
Owner of Jars Hospitality



**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Chris Merritt  
Owner of Merritt Roofing  
Fort Mill, South Carolina**

**November 19, 2024**

My name is Chris Merritt, and I own a roofing company in South Carolina. I want to explain why opposing the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) is crucial for businesses like mine. This legislation would bring sweeping changes to the existing credit card payment network, severely impacting businesses like mine that depend on credit card rewards to manage costs and grow.

My company spends \$80,000 to \$90,000 every month on business credit cards, primarily for construction materials. The current credit card payment process allows us to earn rewards on these purchases, helping us lower our costs, support our bottom line, subsidize business travel, and keep more capital in the business so that we can grow. Last year, we used the company rewards points to send our top salesperson to a Utah conference, which boosted sales during the slow season.

The CCCA threatens these critical rewards programs by cutting into the revenue banks and credit unions use to fund them. A University of Miami study estimates that small businesses like mine could lose \$1 billion in rewards, which would be a significant setback.

Additionally, I am deeply concerned about the security risks associated with the CCCA's mandate to allow alternative payment networks. These networks may not prioritize the same high standards for security and fraud prevention. The CCCA would compromise my ability to protect my company's financial data every time we use our credit cards.

Small businesses like mine cannot afford policies that will drain our resources. We need legislation that protects the resources we need to succeed, not policies that will stifle our growth and put our finances at risk.

Chris Merritt,  
Owner of Merritt Roofing

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Theresa Bostic  
Owner of Kayla's Italian Ice  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**November 19, 2024**

As proud owners of Kayla's Italian Ice in Georgia, my daughter and I have transformed a modest \$100 pushcart investment into a thriving business. Our success would simply not have been possible without our strategic use of credit card rewards programs and the convenience of electronic payments.

We use our business credit card to cover business expenses, which allows us to reduce our costs since each purchase earns rewards points that we use to reinvest in the business and fuel our growth. For us, credit card rewards are not just a perk, they are an essential part of how we operate.

As a food truck business, we rely on the current credit card processing infrastructure to provide our customers with a safe and efficient payment method, no matter where we are. Providing our customers with a payment system they trust, along with exceptional service, is what converts a one-time customer into a repeat customer.

The proposed Credit Card Competition Act puts these benefits at risk. By mandating the exposure of credit cards to alternative, less safe payment networks, this legislation would significantly heighten the risk of fraud and data breaches for our customers. Compromising the security of electronic transactions could severely damage our reputation and our business.

As the Senate Judiciary examines the Durbin-Marshall bill, I want you to remember that the success of small businesses depends on a secure and reliable electronic payment system. Please stand with the small business community and keep the current credit card processing system intact.

Theresa Bostic,  
Owner of Kayla's Italian Ice

**Written Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:**

**Ken Katz  
Owner of Buenos Dias Cafe  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**November 19, 2024**

As the owners of Buenos Dias Cafe in Georgia, my wife and I have grown our business from a small local eatery into a thriving business that serves our community at multiple farmers markets throughout the Atlanta region.

When we take our cafe to various farmers markets, handling cash is the last thing we want to do. It leaves us open to counting errors and comes with additional transportation and security concerns. Our success at farmers markets is only possible because we are able to safely and efficiently accept credit cards regardless of where we are. This allows us to quickly and efficiently process transactions so that we can focus on providing our customers with the best possible service. It also helps us build trust with our customers, as they have confidence that their credit card information will not be compromised.

Unfortunately, the proposed Credit Card Competition Act would make the credit card payment system less secure because it would require banks to expose cards to likely unsafe payment networks. This would put our customers at a higher risk of fraud and data breaches, and put our business and our reputation at risk. All it takes is one fraudulent transaction for us to lose a customer's business.

Small businesses are the backbone of Georgia's economy, and Congress should work on policy proposals that empower us to continue creating jobs and driving economic growth in our communities. Please protect the current credit card payment process and reject the CCCA.

Ken Katz,  
Owner of Buenos Dias Cafe