

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2024

Rohit Chopra, Director
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Director Chopra:

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting families and businesses from illegal practices by financial institutions. We write to bring to your attention to recent data which indicate disparities in homeownership rates between Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) households and straight and cisgender households.

According to a recent report by the Urban Institute using Household Pulse Survey data, there is a five percentage point gap between homeownership among LGBTQI+ and straight and cisgender households, after accounting for financial and demographic characteristics. The disparities are particularly concerning for LGBTQI+ households of color: compared to 77 percent of white, non-LGBTQI+ households, a mere 35 percent of Black and lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer households are homeowners, compared to 51 percent of Black, non-LGBTQI+ households.¹ When looking at ethnicity, 43 percent of Latino and lesbian, gay, or bisexual households are homeowners, compared to 58 percent of Latino non-LGBTQI+ households.

Further data analysis to better understand these trends and provide evidence-based policy recommendations is limited by a lack of publicly available data. Responsible data collection on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics is critical to support intersectional research to better understand the credit experiences of LGBTQI+ homebuyers with respect to mortgage rates, loan terms, loan amounts, and denial rates for mortgage credit. Such data and research are essential to support evidence-based policymaking to improve the economic security and housing stability of the LGBTQI+ constituents that we serve. When gathering this information, the government must always do so in alignment with best practices and rigorous research about how to responsibly collect these data in ways that safeguard privacy, security, and civil rights. Doing so would be in alignment with the goals of Executive Order 14075,² as well as the Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity.³

¹ Urban Institute, *Why Are There Gaps in LGBTQ+ Homeownership?* (February 28, 2024) (Online at urban.org/research/publication/why-are-there-gaps-lgbtq-homeownership).

² Federal Register, Executive Order 14075, *Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals* (87 FR 37189) (June 15, 2022) (Online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/21/2022-13391/advancing-equality-for-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-intersex-individuals>).

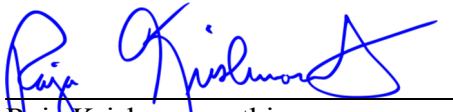
³ National Science and Technology Council, *Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity* (January 2023) (Online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Federal-Evidence-Agenda-on-LGBTQI-Equity.pdf>).

For these reasons, we request your response to the following no later than July 31:

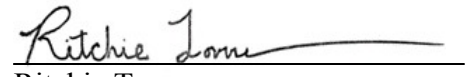
1. Please share a copy of the CFPB SOGISC Data Action Plan⁴ (DAP) as described under Executive Order 14075. If the agency has not yet developed such a plan consistent with that order, please share whether it plans to do so and what actions it has or will be taking to evaluate its SOGI data collection capabilities (including with respect to ensuring confidentiality and preventing misuse) and the need for improved data collection on LGBTQI+ populations.
2. Regarding the existing CFPB Complaint Database,⁵ please share whether there are there consumer complaints regarding financial services and/or financial services products where consumers have self-identified as LGBTQI+? Specifically, are there any such complaints in either the homebuying or home mortgage servicing processes?

Thank you for your continued partnership to ensure equal protection for our families, communities, and businesses participating in the financial market. We look forward to your response.

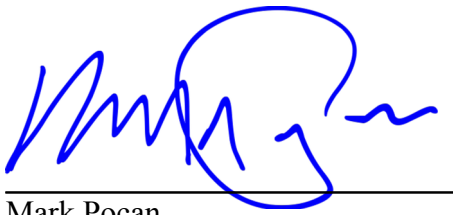
Sincerely,



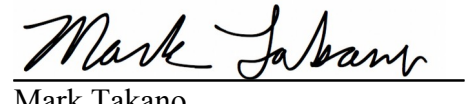
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



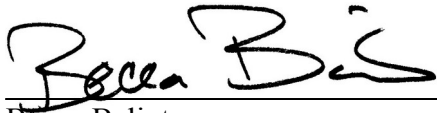
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



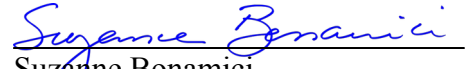
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

⁴ The Administration has referred to this document as the “SOGI Data Action Plan.” We use “SOGISC Data Action Plan” throughout this letter to include variations in sex characteristics, or Intersex status.

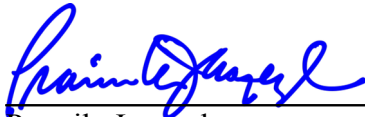
⁵ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, *Consumer Complaint Database* (Accessed June 13, 2024) (Online at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/data-research/consumer-complaints/>).



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



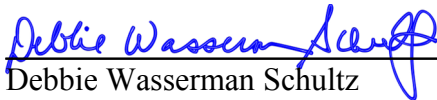
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



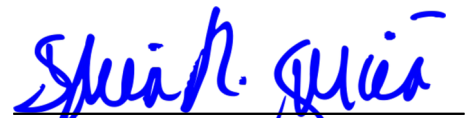
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



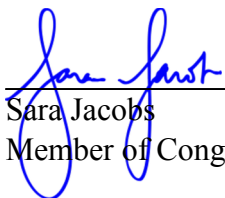
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



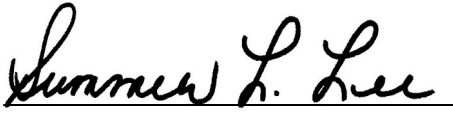
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



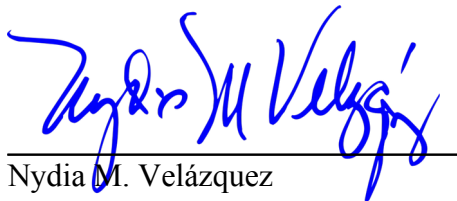
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



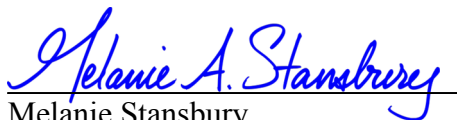
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress