



**DCUC**  
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

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**Jason Stverak**  
Chief Advocacy Officer

March 16, 2026

The Honorable French Hill, Chairman  
The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member  
U.S. House Financial Services Committee  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Scott, Chairman  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hill, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Waters, and Ranking Member Warren:

On behalf of the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) and the defense credit unions we represent worldwide, I write to respectfully urge the House and Senate to move expeditiously to conference the **Housing for the 21st Century Act** and to include several bipartisan credit union provisions that will strengthen access to credit, improve financial stability, and support the millions of servicemembers, veterans, and families served by credit unions.

Defense credit unions operate on the front lines of financial services for America's military community. They serve servicemembers stationed on bases across the United States and abroad, as well as veterans, Department of Defense personnel, and their families. In many military and rural communities, credit unions are the primary financial institutions helping families purchase homes, start small businesses, and build financial stability.

As Congress works to finalize this important housing legislation, the conference process presents an opportunity to incorporate several commonsense reforms that will strengthen community-based lending and enhance financial resilience. DCUC respectfully urges inclusion of the following bipartisan credit union priorities.

### **Credit Union Board Modernization**

DCUC strongly supports inclusion of the **Credit Union Board Modernization Act** (H.R. 975 / S. 522).

Current law requires federal credit union boards to meet monthly regardless of institutional size, complexity, or risk profile. This outdated statutory requirement places unnecessary administrative burdens on credit unions and the volunteer board members who govern them.

The Credit Union Board Modernization Act would allow well-managed credit unions to meet at least six times per year rather than twelve, while maintaining appropriate oversight and preserving stronger meeting requirements for newly chartered or higher-risk institutions.

Credit union boards are composed of unpaid volunteers—often veterans, community leaders, and working professionals—who dedicate their time to serving their communities. Providing greater flexibility will allow boards to focus more on strategic oversight and member service rather than unnecessary procedural mandates.

*Serving Those Who Serve Our Country*

## **Expanding Access to Capital for Veteran Entrepreneurs**

DCUC also strongly supports inclusion of the **Veterans Member Business Loan Act** (H.R. 507 / S. 110).

Under current law, credit unions are subject to an arbitrary statutory cap limiting member business lending to 12.25 percent of assets. Once this cap is reached, credit unions cannot extend additional business loans—even to highly qualified borrowers.

The Veterans Member Business Loan Act would exempt loans made to veteran-owned businesses from this cap while maintaining all existing safety and soundness requirements.

This targeted reform would expand access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs transitioning from military service into civilian business ownership. Credit unions serving military communities are uniquely positioned to support these businesses, but outdated statutory limits prevent them from fully meeting this need.

## **Strengthening the Central Liquidity Facility**

DCUC further urges inclusion of the **NCUA Central Liquidity Facility Enhancements Act** (S. 2545 / S. 3575), introduced by Senators Padilla and Cramer.

The Central Liquidity Facility (CLF) functions as the credit union system's liquidity backstop, similar to the Federal Reserve's discount window for banks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress temporarily expanded CLF access by allowing corporate credit unions to act as agents for smaller institutions, dramatically increasing participation and strengthening system stability.

Unfortunately, those provisions expired in 2022. The Padilla–Cramer legislation would restore the ability of corporate credit unions to serve as agents for natural person credit unions, ensuring institutions of all sizes have access to emergency liquidity during periods of financial stress.

Strengthening the CLF will help credit unions maintain lending for mortgages, small businesses, and consumer needs during times of economic disruption.

## **Increasing Loan Maturity Flexibility**

Finally, DCUC urges inclusion of legislation increasing loan maturity flexibility for credit union lending, specifically the **Credit Union Loan Flexibility Act** (H.R. 4167 / S. 3616).

Current law restricts many credit union loans—including member business loans—to a maximum maturity of 15 years. This outdated limitation does not reflect modern financing needs, particularly for housing development, commercial real estate projects, and long-term community investments.

Increasing the permissible loan maturity from 15 to 20 years will allow credit unions to better structure loans that align with borrowers' financial circumstances while supporting affordable housing development and long-term economic growth.

## **A Bipartisan Opportunity**

The Housing for the 21st Century Act represents a significant opportunity to address housing affordability while strengthening the community-based financial institutions that help families achieve homeownership.

Including the Credit Union Board Modernization Act, the Veterans Member Business Loan Act, the Padilla–Cramer CLF reforms, and credit union loan maturity flexibility would enhance the effectiveness of this legislation while expanding access to responsible lending across the country.

These bipartisan reforms support economic growth, financial stability, and opportunity for American families—including the millions of servicemembers and veterans who rely on credit unions.

DCUC respectfully urges the House and Senate to move swiftly to conference the Housing for the 21st Century Act and include these important credit union provisions in the final legislative package.

Thank you for your continued leadership on housing policy and your support for credit unions serving our nation's military communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Stverak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Stverak  
Chief Advocacy Officer  
DCUC

CC: Members of the House Financial Services Committee and Members of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee