October 7, 2019

The Honorable Alma S. Adams  
United States House of Representatives  
2436 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3312

Re: H.R. 3642 Improving Credit Reporting for All Consumers Act

Dear Representative Adams:

On behalf of America’s 181 Defense Credit Unions and over 23 million members, I am writing to express our support of H.R. 3642, legislation that would amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to improve the credit reporting process. As part of our ongoing advocacy on behalf of our military and their financial well-being, the Defense Credit Union Council will continue to support Congressional efforts to assist our Nation’s servicemembers and their families.

America’s Defense Credit Unions are uniquely positioned and structured to witness the detrimental effects that inaccurate or incomplete information have on credit reports which often result in substantial financial and emotional harm to consumers. For instance, late payments by Tricare end up on the individual’s credit report even though the member is not responsible for the payment. In fact, many of our members are unaware that a negative report has been filed by one of the credit reporting agencies. As a result, these negative reports can have serious implications in a member maintaining their security clearance.

Yet, current industry practices impose an unfair burden of proof on consumers trying to fix errors on their reports. Additionally, military consumers have no say in whether their information is included in any of the Credit Reporting Agency databases and have limited legal remedies to hold these agencies accountable for inaccuracies or poor service. Worse, it is extremely difficult for military members to fix credit reporting errors during a permanent change of station or preparing for a deployment overseas.

More can, and should be done. This is where America’s Defense Credit Unions can help bridge the gap. Our 23 million members are predominantly servicemembers and our volunteer boards of directors consist of veterans who understand these difficulties. We want to join Congress in sending a clear signal that our nation recognizes and will address these harmful effects.

If there is anything more we can do to encourage other Members of Congress to support this legislation, please let us know. My office can be reached at (202) 734-5007 or at ahernandez@dcuc.org.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Hernandez

Serving Those Who Serve Our Country