

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up, CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU—White House releases report on CFPB cost to consumers, (Feb. 18, 2026)

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up

By Joe Cox, J.D.

The report from the Council of Economic Advisors estimates a cost to consumers of \$237 billion to \$369 billion since 2011.

The Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) has provided a [report](#) to the White House which has now been released indicating a massive cost to consumers based on the regulatory impact of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The report notes that since the creation of the CFPB in 2011, the CFPB has expanded its reach through consumer markets including mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards. The report concludes that the CFPB has cost consumers between \$237 billion and \$369 billion in total, with the vast majority of the costs coming through increased borrowing costs.

CEA report details. The large amount of borrowing costs was determined by a series of calculations that utilized a CFPB mortgage rule for example, estimated the increased cost imposed by lenders due to the rule and projected that figure across mortgage markets, where an estimated \$116 billion to \$183 billion of the cost was projected.

The report divides some of the costs into administrative burdens created by compliance, with a total cost of about \$21 billion. Finally, the report concludes that the CFPB has received \$8.9 billion from the Federal Reserve between 2011 and 2024 “which would have otherwise flowed through the U.S. Treasury.” A marginal excess tax burden of \$4.4 billion brings about a total fiscal cost of just over \$13 billion.

Responses to report. Several responses to the report expressed incredulity or concerns. [Credit Slips](#) takes an analytical approach, utilizing the mortgage example which was the basis for much of the projection of the cost to indicate missing considerations in the report. Credit Slips terms the report as “crazy” and notes that it was “frankly embarrassing to see such shoddy legal and economic analysis come out of the CEA.” The Credit Slips response ultimately notes that while CEA was quick to claim costs to consumers, it failed to consider savings from the CFPB. Credit Slips terms the report “a political hatchet job tricked out with a bunch of enough shoddy econometrics to make it look respectable.”

The National Consumer Law Center is likewise skeptical. Their [press release](#) comments that the report “makes unfounded claims that consumers are paying billions to have their loans – including credit cards, car loans, and mortgages – regulated.” NCLC deputy director and chief advocacy officer Diane Thompson states, “A functioning, effective Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is essential in safeguarding people from unscrupulous companies that prey on working families.”

Americans for Financial Reform likewise terms the report “simplistic and misleading.” In their [press release](#) AFR notes, “The report makes no reference to the over \$21 billion in money returned to people harmed by bad financial practices, the benefits of CFPB safeguards that prevented widespread financial harm, or the consumer agency’s role in preventing a repeat of the 2007 mortgage and financial crisis.” Associate director of consumer policy Tom Feltner said, “It is not surprising that this administration is now claiming that people would be better off without the commonsense financial protections that have prevented another financial crisis for the past fifteen years.”

Companies: Americans for Financial Reform; Credit Slips; National Consumer Law Center

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