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National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Consideration of the FY 2021 Financial Services and General Government
Appropriations Bill**

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) in regard to tomorrow's full committee mark-up of the FY 2021 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations Bill. NAFCU advocates for all federally-insured not-for-profit credit unions that, in turn, serve 120 million consumers with personal and small business financial service products. NAFCU appreciates your work on FY 2021 appropriations, and we would like to share our member credit unions' priorities for this legislation.

NAFCU thanks you for your past support for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund and the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund (CDRLF), and we encourage you to strengthen these programs in the year ahead. While we were pleased to see an increase in CDFI funding from the FY 2020 enacted level of \$262 million to \$273.5 million in the Subcommittee-reported bill, we would urge you to fund the CDFI Fund at a level of at least \$300 million (the House-approved level for FY 2020). We also support efforts to fully fund the CDRLF at FY 2020 levels or above, as well as support additional supplemental funding for both the CDFI and CDRLF programs as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NAFCU was pleased to see that the House-passed Phase IV relief bill, the *Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act* (HEROES Act), included an additional \$1 billion in emergency funding for the CDFI Fund and would allow more credit unions to access monies to provide specific programs to help their members. We would also urge you to consider measures to make it easier for credit unions to become a CDFI so that more credit unions can take advantage of this important program.

In regard to the CDRLF, National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Board Member Todd Harper has specifically called for at least \$10 million more for grants in 2020 to help low-income credit unions. CDRLF funds allow NCUA to provide technical assistance grants to credit unions serving low-income communities. Increasing these grants can help ensure that these credit unions have work-from-home infrastructure in place that is appropriately secure during social distancing measures. NCUA has seen a strong increase in demand for these grants due to the pandemic and is unlikely to have enough funding to meet demand without additional funding.

The Honorable Nita Lowey, The Honorable Kay Granger

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NAFCU would also like to highlight how the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has shown the importance of Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. Without the PPP, millions of jobs would have been lost. This illustrates the key role many of the SBA's programs play for small businesses and lenders and the need to ensure they are strongly supported in the future. As you consider the FY 2021 bill, NAFCU urges you to ensure that the SBA's 7(a) and 504 lending programs get the funding that they need for FY 2021.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts and priorities for the FY 2021 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. We look forward to working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process. Should you have any questions or require any additional information please contact me or Lewis Plush, NAFCU's Associate Director of Legislative Affairs, at 703-842-2261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Thaler".

Brad Thaler

Vice President of Legislative Affairs

cc: Members of the House Appropriations Committee