



March 9, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman, House Committee on
Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Congressman Meeks:

The Financial Services Forum (Forum) is writing in support of the “Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2021,” a bill being considered in the House Financial Services Committee as part of a hearing on March 10, 2021, entitled “Justice for All: Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services.” The “Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2021” would require public companies to annually disclose the gender, race, ethnic, and veteran status of their boards of directors, nominees, and senior executives. A previous version of the bill passed the House of Representatives in an overwhelming bipartisan vote in November 2019.

Diversity of corporate boards is an area of focus for Forum institutions and is critically important to investors and other stakeholders. Such diversity strengthens boards, ensures representation of differing experiences and perspectives, and allows for unique approaches to solve complex problems. As the eight Global Systemically Important Banks (GSIBs) headquartered in the United States, our members recognize that efforts to increase board diversity bolster competitiveness around the world, help foster a sustainable and inclusive economy, and lead to better results for consumers, clients, and communities.

The Forum also submits for the record materials outlining how large, diversified U.S. financial institutions are working to support the economy and communities hardest hit by COVID-19, invest in and partner with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), support small businesses through the facilitation of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and engage in public-private partnerships to help close the racial wealth gap.

Importantly, U.S. GSIBs have increased their overall credit provision in 2020 by \$785 billion; facilitated \$69 billion in PPP loans to 850,000 businesses – with over 90 percent of loans made to businesses with 20 or fewer employees and 35 percent of loans made to businesses in majority minority communities; invested nearly \$9 billion in CDFIs in the last five years; and committed tens of billions of dollars to help close the racial wealth gap.

Thank you for your leadership in Congress. Forum members stand ready to work with you to help address these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Fromer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin Fromer
President and CEO
Financial Services Forum