

Friday, September 3, 2021
To: New York Community Banks

- **SPECIAL GRASSROOTS ALERT -- WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT -- SEE ATTACHED**

The proposal by policymakers in Washington that would impose reporting mandates on banks is picking up momentum. As you know, IBANYS has joined with ICBA in strongly opposing this effort. Now, we need your help. I am asking New York community bankers, and their local customers, to fully support a grassroots effort to ask your local congressional representatives to oppose this proposal. See attached for details.

- **Meanwhile, in Albany:**
 1. **NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie named Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy (D-Albany) as the new Chair of the Assembly Banks Committee. She will succeed Victor Pichardo (D-Bronx), who is resigning from the Legislature next week.**
 2. **Here is a list of the key players Governor Hochul has named to senior positions in her administration so far:** <https://citylimits.org/the-kathy-hochul-administration-who-are-the-key-players/>

FROM ICBA

ICBA advocacy briefing next week

ICBA is hosting a [complimentary briefing](#) next week on the latest advocacy developments in Washington and needed grassroots outreach from community bankers and customers.

Details: During the briefing—scheduled for 11 a.m. (Eastern time) Friday, Sept. 10—ICBA staff experts will cover pressing advocacy issues, such as proposed IRS account reporting, credit unions, and more.

Q&A: Participants may submit questions prior to or during the briefing, which will be recorded. [Register here.](#)

IRS favors ICBA-opposed monitoring plan: report

The head of the IRS is advocating to Congress an ICBA-opposed proposal that would require banks to report their customers' account information to the agency—underscoring the importance of ICBA's consumer-facing campaign opposing the plan.

Report: According to [CNBC](#), IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig told Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) that the proposal would significantly reduce the gap between taxes owed and paid as Congress looks to include the plan in the pending budget reconciliation package.

Consumer Alert: While consumers have already sent tens of thousands of messages to their members of Congress via ICBA's [Consumer Alert webpage](#), ICBA urges more community banks to join the campaign against the IRS proposal.

Outreach Vital: ICBA is encouraging community bankers to use its [customizable email and social media content](#) and #KeepMyBankingPrivate hashtag to foster customer outreach that demonstrates widespread consumer opposition to the plan.

Details: ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey details the multi-faceted consumer campaign—including ICBA's custom resources—in a post on [Main Street Matters](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Spending bill would require military rent-parity study

The [House Armed Services Committee](#) this week included in military spending legislation an amendment directing the Defense Department to study servicemembers' access to financial services on base.

Amendment: The amendment to the fiscal 2022 National Defense Authorization Act requires the department to study the degree to which servicemembers and other personnel on base can choose between different financial services providers, including banks and credit unions.

Impact: Introduced by Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-Okla.), the amendment follows repeated ICBA efforts to require the Defense Department to treat credit unions and banks the same with respect to rent.

Background: The DoD allows tax-exempt credit unions—but not banks—to operate rent-free on military bases, which ICBA argues is shrinking the availability of banking options to servicemembers.

Briefing Requirement: The legislation also includes unrelated language requiring the DoD to provide a committee briefing on the impact of personal data breaches on military personnel and their use of payday and title loans.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- COVID fatigue is showing up in declining willingness to cooperate with public health guidance, Axios health care editor Tina Reed [writes](#). The share of Americans who feel hopeful has plummeted to 34%, from 48% in March, according to the [Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index](#). But the number of Americans saying they feel motivated, energized, inspired or resilient has risen at least as much — suggesting we're resolving to do what it takes for the long haul. https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-thought-bubble-f71ccb36-ca8b-41fc-8945-1e5aece88b65.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=thought-bubble-ampm&stream=top . . . [Share this story](#). . . [Go deeper](#).
- [U.S. hospitals are facing](#) a nursing shortage amid the current wave of COVID cases.
- Florida is reporting its deadliest peak in daily death rates since the start of the pandemic, surpassing previous coronavirus surges in the state, according to federal data published Thursday. Data provided by the state to the CDC shows that at least eight days in August produced more daily deaths than during the last peak of the pandemic in August 2020. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9953355/Data-shows-Floridas-latest-COVID-surge-deadliest-yet.html>
- COVID-19 survivors are up to a third more likely to suffer kidney damage than people who avoided contracting the virus - and it can effectively age the vital organs by up to 30 years, a new study has found. Researchers from the Veterans Health Administration analyzed anonymous medical records from about 1.7 million veterans who utilized the VA for treatment between March 2020 and March 2021. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-9951367/Coronavirus-survivors-35-higher-risk-long-term-kidney-damage.html>
- The spike in coronavirus cases is weighing on the economy, dragging down employment growth in key areas and shaking consumer confidence just as millions of Americans are about to lose federal jobless benefits, [Politico reports](#).
- The U.S. economy added a meager 235,000 jobs in August, while the unemployment rate fell from 5.4% to 5.2%, the federal [government said](#) Friday. It's the first jobs report to factor in the extent of the COVID-19 surge driven by the Delta variant — showing a massive slowdown in the recovery after [July's blockbuster jobs report](#). Economists had expected 725,000 jobs to be added. The leisure and hospitality industry saw no job growth at all, an indication the slowdown was directly related to the rise of the Delta variant.

FROM NEW YORK

- Gov. Kathy Hochul on Thursday signed bills that will extend New York's eviction moratorium through Jan. 15 and expand the state's rental assistance program. In this new eviction moratorium bill, lawmakers created a path for landlords to challenge whether tenants have truly been impacted by the pandemic in court. **Governor Hochul's press release is attached.** Also: [Read More](#);
- Newest eviction moratorium takes effect in New York State as Governor Hochul signs [special session bill](#).

- Officials from 10 upstate counties released a letter Thursday raising concerns with the impending COVID-19 vaccination mandate for health care workers in New York and urged Gov. Kathy Hochul and Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker to modify it. [Read more.](#)
- The New York State Department of Health on Thursday released a 3-page guidance for schools to test for COVID-19 as students and teachers return to the classroom in the coming days — including a weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated school personnel. [Read more.](#)
- The Hochul administration quickly took care of some pressing issues this week in calling legislators back to Albany to deal with things like a pending eviction crisis and establishing a cannabis control board. However, critics said it may have been a little too quick. [Read More](#)
- Good-government organizations, press groups and advocates for people with disabilities in New York on Thursday called for a public hearing on the state's open meetings law after state legislators and Gov. Kathy Hochul agreed to allow government bodies to meet remotely until Jan. 15. [Read More](#)
- New York City's teachers union says it's at an impasse with Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration over what happens to teachers who are required to get a COVID-19 vaccine but have a medical reason they can't get the shot, [NY1 reports.](#)
- The state Public Health and Health Planning Council approved two emergency regulations for schools – a requirement that all public and private schools report COVID-19 positive test results daily to the state Department of Health and a potential testing requirement for unvaccinated staff, [Newsday reports.](#)
- [NY releases COVID-19 testing guidance for schools.](#)
- [Home schooling on the rise in NY during pandemic.](#)

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IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

- **John J. Witkowski, President & CEO (Johnw@ibanys.net; 716.880.0518)**
- **Stephen W. Rice, Director, Communications & Government Relations (Stever@ibanys.net)**