



# Pass the Cap!

36% APR Cap Stops the Payday Lending Debt Trap

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Not only do average payday loans in Minnesota carry an outrageous 220% annual interest rate, the terms of these loans intentionally create a cycle of debt from which borrowers have great difficulty escaping. The result for many struggling families is a spiral of financial challenges including unpaid bills, bank fees that create involuntarily closed bank accounts, and even bankruptcy.

Our lawmakers should stop this predation now, with a 36% cap on APR for these loans. Similar caps have chased out predatory lenders in 18 states and D.C.

## FAST FACTS ON PAYDAY LENDING IN MINNESOTA

- Average loan size: \$424
- Average loans per year: 6
- Average weeks in debt: 20
- Average annual interest: 220%

Eighteen states and DC stop predatory payday lending with caps of 36% annual interest, inclusive of fees.

79% of Minnesotans support a rate cap of 36% or lower, with high levels of support among all party affiliations.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PAYDAY LOANS?

Payday loans average \$424 in Minnesota. Payday lenders market these loans, typically due back on the borrower's next payday, as short-term relief for a cash shortfall, but the simple truth is that they are designed to create a long-term cycle. With full payment typically due on the borrower's next payday, and with the lender able to extract payment directly from the borrower's bank account, repeat borrowing is common and costly.

In Minnesota, borrowers take an average 6 loans per year and are caught in debt for 20 weeks or more. At these rates, they often end up paying much more in interest than they originally borrowed.

And research from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau indicates that payday lenders rely heavily on this repeat cycle: 75% of fees come from borrowers with ten or more loans per year. Payday lenders can't make their business work unless they keep borrowers in financial servitude.

Fortunately, former borrowers in states that once had payday lending express relief to be out of the debt trap and have found a variety of ways to cover cash shortfalls that don't cause them the harm that payday loans once did.

## THE HARMS OF PAYDAY LOANS

Payday lending takes a toll on families by turning a cash shortfall into a long-term, expensive debt burden. The following harms have been associated with payday lending:

- Inability to keep up with regular expenses like food, rent, and medications.
- Increased overdraft and insufficient funds fees, because payday lenders extract the loan balance and fees directly from the customer's bank account, even if their funds are short.
- In turn, repeated bank fees can lead to involuntary bank account closure. Losing access to their bank account can be burdensome and costly for struggling families for years to come.
- Payday borrowers are more likely to have to file bankruptcy than similarly situated families.

In addition, payday lending drains millions per year from local economies with fees going to predatory lenders rather than safe, responsible products and services that would help to sustain families' security instead of draining their wealth.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR RATE CAP

Polling found that 79% of Minnesotans support a rate cap of 36% or lower, with high levels of support among all party affiliations.

These organizations support the rate cap:

