April 22, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Our organizations have been working together with your office and with the Department of Business Oversight during these difficult times. Together, we have assisted millions of Californians facing extreme economic hardship. Credit unions and banks are busy deferring auto and mortgage payments, waving fees, and providing emergency loans, along with other key forms of relief. And our employees stand in the front line every day to provide urgently needed banking services because we are dedicated to helping our fellow Californians.

As we have stepped up to serve our communities, we have had to shift many of our employees from their traditional assignments to providing financial assistance to the consumers who have lost their jobs and are desperately seeking our help. In addition, we have been asked to take on a new crucial and complicated task, that is, serving as the public access point for tens of thousands of California business people who are applying for loans under the Paycheck Protection Program.

While we all wish that things could return to normal soon, we know better. That is why we are respectfully requesting that you act to provide a delay in the implementation of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) until January 2, 2021 so that financial institutions can continue to focus all their energies on our joint mission of serving the desperate needs of Californians. This is simply not the time to pull employees away from providing the urgent financial services that your administration and our institutions agree is the most critical function right now, to performing regulatory compliance work.

Financial Institutions are highly regulated businesses operating under strong federal and state privacy laws. We are very supportive of consumer privacy protection, and in fact have been an active part of shaping California’s forward-looking privacy laws over the past 20 years. We strongly believe, however, that is the wrong time to roll out this law. As part of a team that is working every day with your administration to help Californians weather this storm, we are deeply concerned that implementation of the CCPA during the COVID-19 pandemic will require a shift of key personnel away from the crisis at hand to preparing for a new legal and regulatory framework.
The short six month delay we are requesting will allow your financial institutions to stay laser focused on getting our citizens back on their feet. I think we can all agree there is no more important task in the months ahead.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

California Credit Union League
California Community Bankers Network

c: Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary & Chief of Legislative Operations, Office of the Governor
Honorable Steven Bradford, Chair Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee
Honorable Monique Limón, Chair Assembly Banking and Finance Committee
Manuel P. Alvarez, Commissioner of the California Department of Business Oversight