



DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

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Jason Stverak
Chief Advocacy Officer

March 8, 2026

The Honorable Nick Hinrichsen
Vice Chair, Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee
Colorado State Capitol, Room 346
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Please Vote NO on SB26-134 (“Payment Card Networks’ Fees”)

Dear Senator Hinrichsen,

Thank you again for your time today and for the opportunity to share our perspective.

I am writing on behalf of the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC), which represents more than 220 defense-affiliated, not-for-profit credit unions that serve well over 40 million service members, veterans, and military families, including many who live and work in Colorado.

SB26-134 may be intended as a narrow change—excluding taxes from the base used to calculate certain percentage-based interchange fees—and it may appear to focus on very large institutions. In practice, however, payments systems are deeply interconnected. When state law changes rules at the network level, the operational and compliance impacts can extend well beyond the parties a bill is trying to target.

Even with exemptions and carve-outs, implementation often requires changes to processing flows, reconciliation, dispute handling, and compliance controls across multiple parties. Those changes create real costs and complexity—costs that ultimately reduce the resources community-based financial institutions can dedicate to serving consumers and small businesses.

Just as importantly, there is no reliable mechanism in SB26-134 to ensure that any cost reductions are passed through to consumers at the point of sale. Experience with prior interchange price controls suggests consumer savings are uncertain, while the downstream consequences—reduced card benefits, higher account fees, and reduced flexibility for community institutions—are much more immediate and predictable.

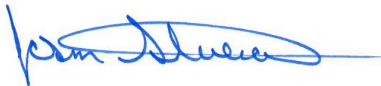
Serving Those Who Serve Our Country

For defense credit unions, these tradeoffs are especially serious. Revenue tied to card programs supports investments in fraud protection and secure transaction processing, and it helps credit unions provide military families with affordable products and services—such as financial counseling, emergency assistance, and other programs that improve household stability and readiness. When financial institutions that serve military communities lose resources or face new operational burdens, the result is fewer options and higher costs for the very families who already carry unique financial challenges related to deployments, frequent moves, and transitions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB26-134 and to vote NO if and when it comes before your committee.

Thank you for your consideration. If helpful, DCUC would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information, data, and the perspective of military-serving credit unions on how interchange-related policy changes affect consumers, security, and financial readiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Stverak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Stverak
Chief Advocacy Officer
DCUC