



PRESS RELEASE

LOUISIANA TREASURER JOHN FLEMING, MD

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DEBANKED? IF SO, TREASURER FLEMING WANTS TO KNOW

Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., wants to know if any individuals or businesses in the state have been debanked for their religious or political viewpoints. Dr. Fleming and his colleagues in the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF) are creating a database of individuals and businesses that have been improperly denied access to their capital by a bank or financial institution.

This problem was recently highlighted when President Donald Trump, in an address to the World Economic Forum, criticized Bank of America for not taking “conservative business.” He implored the CEO of Bank of America, Brian Moynihan, to “start opening your bank to conservatives because many conservatives complain.” President Trump believes that what Bank of America and many other financial institutions are “doing” is “wrong.”

Last August, Dr. Fleming recommended that Bank of America not be approved as an authorized fiscal agent in the State of Louisiana based on **LRS 49:317** and **320**. The decision was made because of evidence that Bank of America is deliberately debanking religious organizations, gun manufacturers, fossil fuel producers, and others based simply on their political or religious perspectives and activities, not because of any bank policy or law violations.

Dr. Fleming’s decision was validated by research from SFOF, who discovered that Bank of America exhibited a “pattern of internal political and religious bias.” According to SFOF, Bank of America ranked very low on the Viewpoint Diversity Score Business Index, which rates corporate support for free speech and freedom of religion.

In Dr. Fleming’s view, “Any discrimination based on political or religious viewpoints is unacceptable, which is why I am asking the people of Louisiana if they have been victimized by debanking. If so, I want to hear from you.”

Along with his colleagues in the SFOF, Dr. Fleming is standing with President Trump to safeguard the interests of the American people and fight for those individuals and businesses who have been victimized by debanking.

Debanking, due to viewpoint discrimination, is a significant threat to our free-market system and the American way of life. There have been cases when individuals have lost access to their capital with no warning or explanation from their bank or financial institution. Sadly, this happens when a big bank does not like the political or religious viewpoints of its customers.

According to Dr. Fleming, “These actions amount to censorship and are totally and completely un-American. I encourage any individual or business in Louisiana who has been the victim of debanking to visit this link: sfof.com/debanking and share your story.”

He continued, “With my SFOF colleagues, we are fighting back, for your financial freedom, freedom of speech, and our country’s free-market system.”

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