



March 18, 2026

Harvey Epstein, Chair
Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection
New York City Council
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Epstein and Members of the Committee:

The National Association of Consumer Advocates writes to express our support of full and ample funding for the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). As the entire country is facing an affordability crisis, New York City is gradually becoming a national model for bringing down costs for its residents. The DCWP is central to that endeavor.

In light of the ongoing weakening of federal consumer protections, it is crucial that New York City provide DCWP with the necessary resources to combat predatory business practices that harm families, workers, and small businesses. Amid the precipitous decline of consumer law enforcement on the federal level, the DCWP's work to issue and enforce strong protections has never been more important.

We have observed the many ways in which the DCWP has delivered economic justice on behalf of consumers and workers. This agency has successfully tackled junk fees, overcharges, debt collection abuses, bait-and-switch pricing, and other predatory schemes that rip off New Yorkers. All of it has facilitated lower prices as well as fair and equitable treatment of residents.

The DCWP's work is not only crucial for compensating harmed consumers and workers, its law enforcement and protective rules deter unfair, abusive, and deceptive schemes in the marketplace and the workplace. Thus, a well-resourced DCWP will help to level the playing field for honest, law-abiding businesses.

Accordingly, we urge the City to provide the DCWP with all the resources it needs to protect and empower New York consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Hines
Senior Policy Director