March 20, 2020

The Honorable Leslie Pettijohn, Commissioner
Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner
2601 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78705

Dear Commissioner Pettijohn:

In response to growing financial concerns resulting from the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), AARP requests that the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner provide guidance to licensees on ways they might ease the financial burden of borrowers, especially those of high-cost payday and auto-title loans. In particular, we encourage your office to provide guidance that directs licensees to work with borrowers experiencing financial hardships due to COVID-19 by creating an affordable pathway to catch up on missed payments and by establishing a temporary moratorium on vehicle repossessions on auto-title loans.

As you know, a growing number of Texans are likely to face financial burdens because of the spread of COVID-19. Approximately one in five payday and auto-title borrowers in Texas are age 50 and older. This does not account for the many older Texans who help children and grandchildren break free from these high-cost loans. Establishing temporary relief measures will grant existing borrowers a better chance of avoiding defaults on their loans. In this time of crisis, high-cost payday and auto-title loans should not add undue stress or saddle Texans with an unnecessary financial burden. Texans need to focus on keeping themselves, their families, and their communities safe and healthy. For these reasons, we urge your office to pursue these important steps to support Texans in need.
If you have questions, please contact Tim Morstad at 512-480-2436 or tmorstad@aarp.org. We appreciate your consideration and hope to see guidance that helps affected Texans and their families.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tina Tran
State Director