



Americans for Financial Reform
1629 K St NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC, 20006
202.466.1885

OPPOSE WICKER AMENDMENT 604 TO ELIMINATE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH

On behalf of Americans for Financial Reform, we urge you to oppose Wicker Amendment 604.¹ This amendment would completely eliminate funding for the Office of Financial Research (OFR) – a critical new element of the financial regulatory system created by the Dodd-Frank Act.

- One of the important lessons of the 2008 financial crisis is that neither regulators nor market participants had enough information to fully understand the risks and exposures created by the modern financial system.
- A critical step in ensuring that we can address financial problems before they explode into crisis is ensuring that both regulators and industry have adequate information. This is what the Office of Financial Research does.
- The OFR's role is to confidentially gather and analyze information from the big banks and major Wall Street firms to improve understanding of risks created by the financial system – and allow regulators to act on that information in advance of any crisis.
- In addition to serving as an early warning system, the OFR is also helping financial firms and other regulators standardize and streamline data collection. This should improve risk management both within individual firms and across the industry.
- The OFR will protect confidential information. The OFR's mission is to examine risks created by Wall Street and the big banks – not to track financial transactions by ordinary Americans.
- Eliminating the Office of Financial Research would eliminate a key resource for reducing duplicative data collection, improving financial industry risk management, and helping regulators to better understand the complex financial services industry. This would significantly weaken the regulation of Wall Street and we urge you to oppose Wicker Amendment #604.

¹ [Americans for Financial Reform \(www.ourfinancialsecurity.org\)](http://www.ourfinancialsecurity.org) is an unprecedented coalition of more than 250 national, state and local groups who have come together to reform the financial industry. Members of our coalition include consumer, civil rights, investor, retiree, community, labor, religious and business groups.