

DRAINS ECONOMY, HURTS FAMILIES PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LENDING IN TEXAS

A MAJOR ISSUE FOR TEXAS: THE “DEBT TRAP”

If borrowers can't pay off the entire loan amount in two or four weeks, they must pay high fees to roll over the loan. Each roll over has high fees that never reduce the principal—trapping borrowers in a **cycle of debt**. Installment payday or auto title loans keep borrowers in debt even longer at rates of 500% APR or higher.

14-DAY PAYDAY LOAN IN TEXAS

- › Average APR: 463%
- › Average Cost to Repay \$500: Over \$1,200 for borrowers caught in the debt trap.



IT COSTS TEXANS

In 2015, about **717** vehicles were repossessed per week.



In 2012-15, churches and nonprofits helping borrowers, along with Texas families, collectively paid payday and auto title businesses **\$5.9 BILLION** in fees



TAXPAYERS BEAR THE COSTS

A 2010 Texas survey found that **76%** of payday and auto title borrowers seeking charitable assistance also receive a public benefit, such as food stamps, Medicaid, or Social Security

TEXAS: SAME PRODUCTS, HIGHER FEES

Texas is one of only a handful of states with no cap on payday and auto title loan charges. These businesses are getting a free pass compared to other financial service providers. Texans pay about double in fees compared to borrowers in other states for a two-week \$500 payday loan:



WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE?

SCRIPTURE PROHIBITS USURY AND COMMANDS US TO CARE FOR THE POOR.

*If you lend money to
My people, to the poor
among you,
you are not to act as a
creditor to him; you shall not
charge him interest.*

EXODUS 22:25

*But whoever has
the world's goods,
and sees his brother in need and
closes his heart against him,
how does the love of God abide
in him?...let us not love
with word or with tongue,
but in deed and truth.*

1 JOHN 3:17-18

*If you lend to those from
whom you expect to receive,
what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners in
order to receive back the same
amount. But love your enemies,
and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return.*

LUKE 6:34-35a



SUPPORT JUST LENDING PRACTICES

- › Contact your state legislators and ask them to support meaningful payday and auto title reform that solidifies the municipal ordinances in state law while including the fees, interest, and principal in the borrowing limitations.
- › Engage your city council members and ask them to pass a local ordinance regulating payday and auto title lenders.
- › Educate your pastors and fellow church members about the dangers of payday and auto title lenders.
- › Offer financial education classes to church and community members.

For more information contact:

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 **TEXAS BAPTISTS®**

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CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly with God. Micah 6:8