



More Than 8 in 10 American Cardholders Support Credit Card Interest Rate Cap, but Approval Wanes When Asked About Ramifications

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About half of cardholders back a credit card rate cap like Sen. Sanders and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's proposal despite reduced access to credit and rewards

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 26, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- More than 8 in 10 American credit cardholders would support some version of a credit card interest rate cap similar to the one recently proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, according to a [new report](#) from CompareCards.com. However, the report showed major cracks in support for a cap when cardholders were asked about what could happen if a cap took effect.



CompareCards.com surveyed more than 1,000 credit cardholders for their views on the May 2019 proposal from Sen. Sanders (D-VT), one of the leading contenders for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) to cap credit card interest rates at 15 percent nationwide. Though wide, bipartisan support exists for greater regulation of credit cards, approval for a rate cap fell sharply when asked about potential consequences.

Key findings

- **About half of American cardholders said they support Sen. Sanders and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's proposal to cap rates at 15 percent.** Another 26 percent said they support a cap but think the maximum rate should be lower than 15 percent, and another 8 percent support a cap but think the maximum rate should be higher than 15 percent. In all, just 14 percent said they didn't support any form of the proposal.
- **83 percent of cardholders said they feel there should be a cap on the rates a financial institution can charge,** when asked broadly about rate caps rather than about a specific proposal.
- **51 percent of cardholders said they would support a rate cap if it meant people with imperfect credit would have a significantly harder time obtaining a credit card.**
- **47 percent of cardholders said they would support a rate cap if it meant credit card rewards might get reduced significantly.**
- **More than three in four cardholders agree there should be more laws and/or regulations in place to protect cardholders.** 85 percent of Democrats agreed, as did 73 percent of Republicans.

"Americans love the idea of a credit card rate cap. It's one of the few things both Republicans and Democrats agree on these days, but that love isn't unconditional," said Matt Schulz, Chief Industry Analyst at CompareCards. "A large number of cardholders would say no thanks to a rate cap, or at least have second thoughts about one, if it would hinder access to credit or especially if it would lead to less lucrative credit card rewards. Both of those scenarios are distinct possibilities if a cap were to take effect."

To view the full report, visit <https://www.comparecards.com/blog/half-of-cardholders-back-credit-card-rate-cap/>.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

press@comparecards.com

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