

in educating its people. As we celebrate Read Across America Day in our homes, schools, and libraries, let us recommit to empowering every child with a strong start and a passion for the written word.

The journey to literacy begins early and continues throughout childhood. Parents and caregivers can play an essential role in developing fundamental skills by reading aloud regularly, helping children explore new words and concepts, and instilling enthusiasm for language and storytelling. These first lessons help pave the way for a love of reading that can last a lifetime. As children move from the living room to the classroom, teachers, librarians, and families use books to reinforce reading proficiency and build critical thinking skills that provide the foundation for a world-class education. By working together to give our sons and daughters the tools for achievement, we lay the groundwork for growth and prosperity that will stand the test of time.

On Read Across America Day, we also celebrate the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel—an author whose fanciful wordplay and whimsical tales continue to delight young readers around the world. Dr. Seuss's stories evoke the unlimited potential for imagination and inspiration on the printed page, and they remind us of the countless ways reading enhances our lives. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to raising a generation of avid learners and bringing an outstanding education within reach for every child.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2, 2012, as Read Across America Day. I call upon children, families, educators, librarians, public officials, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8782 of March 5, 2012

National Consumer Protection Week, 2012

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Millions of Americans use financial products, including credit cards, mortgages, and student loans, to build the foundation for a better tomorrow. These tools help bring our aspirations within reach and empower countless individuals to earn an education, afford a home, or raise a family. Yet, irresponsible lending and deceptive practices pose serious risks to consumers and our economy alike. During National Consumer Protection Week, we recommit to empowering all Americans with the clear and concise information they need to make financial decisions, and to encouraging open and honest competition in the marketplace.

For 14 years, consumer advocacy groups, private organizations, and agencies at every level of government have come together to celebrate National Consumer Protection Week by highlighting the ways individuals and families can protect themselves from scams, fraud, and abuse. Robust consumer education is essential to a healthy economy, and I encourage all Americans to learn more about money management, avoiding identity theft, understanding loans and mortgages, and other topics at: www.NCPW.gov.

With the leadership of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and Director Richard Cordray, my Administration continues to look out for the interests of everyday Americans by strengthening oversight and accountability in the financial sector and fighting for the protections consumers deserve. Last year, we launched the “Know Before You Owe” campaign to simplify home loan applications, student financial aid packages, and credit card agreements and make it easier for consumers to compare options. We are reaching out to seniors, service members, and others who face unique financial challenges to help them access the tools and resources they need. To better understand the issues confronting consumers across our country, we are also engaging individuals and organizations and ensuring they have a voice at the CFPB. To share your own experience with consumer financial products, file a complaint, or find more information about how the CFPB is protecting American families, visit: www.ConsumerFinance.gov.

For centuries, our Nation has endeavored to uphold a principle that will forever remain at the heart of the American promise—that with hard work and responsibility, every individual deserves the opportunity to get ahead. As we continue to restore financial security through strong consumer protections, we help ensure no American is left to face unfair practices alone and every family has the chance to preserve and pass down what they have worked so hard to achieve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 4 through March 10, 2012, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon government officials, industry leaders, and advocates across the Nation to share information about consumer protection and provide our citizens with information about their rights as consumers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA