



# FedFin Daily Briefing

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Thursday, May 5, 2022

## Dems Expand Crypto Concerns to Retirement Accounts

In a [letter](#) today to Fidelity, Sens. Warren (D-MA) and Smith (D-MN) opposed the firm's decision to include Bitcoin in its 401k plans, reinforcing prior [guidance](#) from the Department of Labor that took considerable exception to the use of virtual currency in retirement accounts. Reflecting longstanding concerns by these Senators and Sen. Brown (D-OH) about cryptocurrency, the letter argues that Bitcoin's volatility poses too much risk and questioned potential conflicts of interest due to Fidelity's Bitcoin mining operation. The senators ask questions about the impact of the DOL warning, how much Fidelity has earned from mining, and how it will address conflicts of interest. A response is due by May 18.

## Recent Files Available for Downloading

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The following reports and analyses have been sent to retainer clients recently. Copies are also available to retainer clients on the Archives section of Federal Financial Analytics' website: [www.fedfin.com](http://www.fedfin.com) or clients may obtain the reports/analyses by e-mailing [info@fedfin.com](mailto:info@fedfin.com) giving the requested item name, firm, and e-mail address. To learn more about *GSE Activity Reports*, click [here](#).

- **CRA31**: The FDIC today led the way with release of a long-awaited inter-agency [proposal](#) updating decades-old CRA regulation.
- **CLIMATE13**: The FSB's report is aimed at establishing global standards that prevent fragmentation along national or regional lines as well as ensuring that regulatory and supervisory actions mitigate climate risk to the greatest extent possible in the face of an array of data and measurement challenges.
- **INTERCHANGE9**: As anticipated, bankers and card networks squared off with merchants at today's Senate Judiciary hearing addressing credit-card interchange fees.
- **GSE-042822**: In this note, we expand on our analysis of the CFPB's new campaign against [nonbank financial institutions](#) to look more deeply at its impact on residential-mortgage finance.
- **CONSUMER42**: Today's HFSC hearing with CFPB Director Chopra plowed much ground broken yesterday before the Senate Banking Committee ([see Client Report CONSUMER40](#)), but several new furrows were also unearthed.
- **CONSUMER41**: Using what it describes as "dormant" authority, the CFPB is seeking comment on a rule setting the procedures under which it expands its authority to nonbank financial companies it believes pose consumer-protection risk.
- **CONSUMER40**: The Senate Banking Committee's hearing today with CFPB Director Chopra was a sharply partisan session with little immediate impact on what Mr. Chopra plans to do to achieve his sweeping new vision.
- **GSE-042122**: In our last CRT [analysis](#), we looked at transaction viability under the Basel IV rewrite set for rapid release once key Fed nominees are finally confirmed.
- **GSE-042022**: As we noted [yesterday](#), the IMF's financial-stability [report](#) includes a searing assessment of fintech risk.
- **CBDC11**: As [promised](#), we turn here to an in-depth analysis of a [paper](#) from global regulators on whether CBDC contributes to financial inclusion – one of the most vital arguments from those advocating

CBDC in the U.S. and in many other nations.

- [GSE-041522](#): Cementing her very different vision of Fannie and Freddie, Acting Director Thompson has now finalized a new strategic plan for the FHFA emphasizing the importance of both equitable and sustainable housing finance
- [CBDC11](#): Progressive Democrats in the House have introduced an alternative digital-dollar proposal ("e-cash") to the "FedAccount" construct urged by Senate progressives that mandates an electronic currency created by the Treasury Department to devise an electronic substitute for physical fiat currency.
- [GSE-040722](#): FHFA has finalized new [capital rules](#) for the GSEs designed to accelerate the credit-risk transfer the agency now deems essential for a fast-acting conservatorship exit.