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**From:** Sue Squires [mailto:sue.e.squires@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 12:50 PM  
**To:** Overdraft Comments  
**Cc:** singletarym@washpost.com  
**Subject:** Overhaul of Overdraft Practices

The article by Michelle Singletary in my local newspaper concerning overhauling bank overdraft fees left me fuming. Have we really reached the point in this nation where we have to explain to people that you can't spend money you don't have without suffering ramifications? One of the examples used was purchasing a \$5 coffee and then paying overdraft fees because a person didn't have \$5 in their account. Really? Why on earth would someone be spending \$5 on a cup of coffee when they don't have it. I don't want to hear that they didn't realize the funds weren't available. It is not my bank's responsibility to balance my check book and tell me how much money I have to spend. There are too many people who live beyond their means in this nation and then turn to the government to fix their problems.

I have managed to live 50 years without EVER overdrawing my account, even if it meant doing without. To make banks responsible for educating customers in how to manage their finances will perpetuate the idea that Americans are too stupid to manage their day to day affairs without government intervention. I find it hard to believe that the FDIC doesn't see that allowing people to continue to overdraw their accounts without feeling the full ramifications will fix the problem. On the contrary, the incentive to live within one's means will be further removed. People who habitually spend money they don't have will now have a safety net that allows them to continue their reckless spending. I can hear it now, "Hey if I don't have the money, I can just spend it anyway and the government will take care of it for me". This to me is extremely insulting and downright scary. What next, shall the FDIC send people to our homes to make sure we are living within our means, help us balance our checkbooks and set up a budget that insures we can afford that \$5 cup of coffee?

In my opinion there is a perfectly logical way to solve what someone has decided is a problem. It's called PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. Write a bad check, overdraw your account with your debit card, spend more than you have in any fashion, and PAY THE CONSEQUENCES.

Let's quit all the hand holding and force people to look to themselves for answers to their problems, not the government! I'm becoming more embarrassed by this nations leaders every day. What was once a proud and free country, where people assumed responsibility for themselves is being reduced to a society that looks to the government to fix the simplest things.

Maybe one day I can get the government to provide me with free health care, protect me from the evil banking industry, guarantee my investments, provide me with a job, require that I receive 6 weeks of paid time off each year, and insure that I don't have to worry about saving for my retirement, regardless of how I live my life. I'll close using the method of the late Mr. Rogers when teaching kids new words on his show; "Kids, can you say Socialism? I knew you could".

Sincerely,  
Sue E. Squires  
"I'm a Taxpaying American and I approve this message"