

Tuesday April 5, 2022

Paul D. Thompson  
Acting Inspector General  
Illinois Secretary of State  
100 W. Randolph Ste. 5-400  
Chicago, IL 60601

**RE: Investigation Request Into Opportunity Financial's Lobbying Practices**

Dear Acting Inspector General Thompson,

As president of government watchdog Accountable.US, I write to you today to request a formal investigation over the lobbying practices of Opportunity Financial (OppFi), a high-cost lending company, for potential violations of the Lobbyist Registration Act.

While OppFi [halted](#) its lending activity in Illinois after the 36% interest rate cap took [effect](#) last year, prior to registering as a lobbyist with the state, the company's Senior Manager of Government Relations posted on social media in November 2021 of having a "[phenomenal dinner](#)" with the Illinois House Speaker. In early December 2021, the operative posted that she hosted "[dinner & dialogue](#)" with three Illinois lawmakers, including a member of Senate Leadership and the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus.

Additionally, records show that OppFi's Senior Manager of Government Relations had already held multiple meetings with state lawmakers when the company first appeared as a lobbying client of former Illinois Senate Majority Leader James F. Clayborne in an amended [filing](#) at the very end of 2021. Last October, OppFi's Senior Manager of Government Relations [thanked](#) the National Conference of State Legislatures for a trip to Ireland with [over 50](#) state legislative leaders from across the country.

As the Chicago Sun-Times [reported](#), state records show that the operative engaged in all of these meetings prior to registering as a lobbyist for the first time on January 26, 2022.

OppFi's practices warrant an immediate investigation by the Inspector General. The high-cost lending company has failed to provide an adequate explanation for its lack of lobbyist registration despite these meetings with various state lawmakers. If OppFi is in violation of the Lobbyist Registration Act to the detriment of the people of Illinois, it is critical they are held to account for their wrongdoings.

Thank you in advance for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

Kyle Herrig  
President of Accountable.US