

Junk Fees Are Everywhere

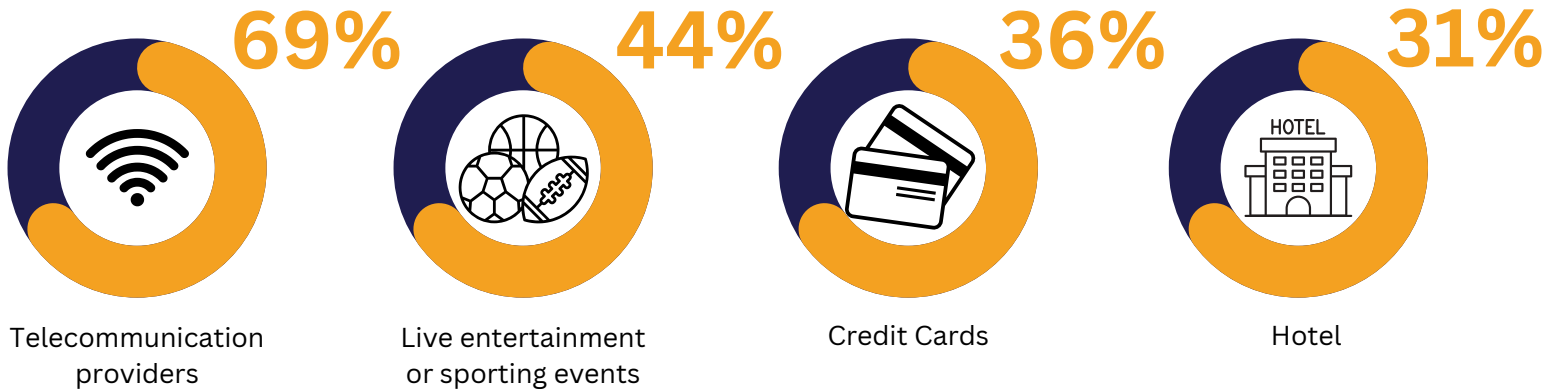
Corporations in Minnesota are employing underhanded tactics to hike prices on families already struggling to meet basic expenses. On average, **Minnesota households shell out over \$3,000 annually for these "junk fees,"** which artificially inflate prices without offering any tangible benefits.

85%

Minnesotans
encounter these
fees.

These sneaky charges, often disguised as "service" or "convenience" fees, sneak into your checkout cart when booking a rental car, purchasing tickets to a Twins game, upgrading your phone, reserving a hotel room, paying rent, securing a storage unit, and the list goes on.

Where did you experience a hidden fee in the last year?



*Source: 2018 Consumer Reports nationally representative survey of 2,057 adults

Level the playing field and mandate pricing transparency

The legislature is considering HF3438/SF3537, which requires disclosure of all fees and charges in the advertised and displayed price of any good or service. This move would provide consumers with a clear, upfront understanding of a product's total cost and discourage the use of hidden fees to exploit hardworking Minnesota families.

By mandating upfront disclosure of all fees in advertised prices, Minnesota can shield families from exploitation and promote fairness in the economy.

I am a full time working mother, with three children in Minnetonka, Minnesota. **Planning for all of life's expenses is difficult, when costs are not clearly transparent for budgeting for a family of five.** Tickets to events, mobile phone bills and airline fees are all examples I see often where added fees are tacked on to the final amount.

Sara, Minnetonka

Official Comment FTC Junk Fees Rule Docket ID: FTC-2023-0064

My biggest complaint about fees is from the investment advisor, Edward Jones. I **have no idea how they came up with a "retirement fees."** Then, they jacked up annual fees and divided my account between before and after fiduciary regulations went into effect. And, that's after they charged 4% up front and left me in funds that lost mine over an entire decade.

Paige, Aitkin

Official Comment FTC Junk Fees Rule Docket ID: FTC-2023-0064

I am being charged \$4.35 monthly for the landlord to assess my utility bills. It is just for the company that services the holding company that owns the building. The only reason I am being charged is to pay the LLC for using a service that they require!

Deborah, Eagan

Official Comment FTC Junk Fees Rule Docket ID: FTC-2023-0064

As a senior citizen **living on a fixed income, it is challenging to determine the true cost of things when add ons** are then added to the price. It is difficult to do comparison shopping and it wastes time better spent elsewhere. It is difficult enough to do comparison shopping for health care and insurance premiums without having to shop for airline or concert tickets.

Chris, Minneapolis

Official Comment FTC Junk Fees Rule Docket ID: FTC-2023-0064

Minnesotans Want a Ban on Junk Fees



86%

of Minnesotans would support lawmakers taking action to ban "junk fees"

including 93% of Democrats
 87% of Independents
 78% of Republicans

only 10% of Minnesotans oppose it

*Source: From December 14 to 20, 2023, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 820 likely voters in Minnesota