

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger Chair, Appropriations Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries Democratic Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: DOL's Proposed Retirement Security Rule

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jefferies, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and older, is writing to strongly oppose any attempts to block or impede finalization and implementation of the Department of Labor's proposed Retirement Security Rule.

Anywhere in America, regardless of political party or affiliation, your constituents expect that when they consult a financial professional to help them plan their retirement, they are getting good advice that is in their best interest. For most people, that will be the case. But for some, their retirement adviser will give them advice that is in the *adviser's best interest* – because they might earn better fees or a big commission, even if that is not the right product for their client. The Retirement Security Rule would close that loophole and ensure *every* American can count on the advice they get when planning for their retirement.

This is critical as our country is currently facing a serious retirement savings crisis. Too many Americans are ill-prepared to retire. They have very little savings, and far too many have no savings at all. That is why the retirement savings of those who have managed to scrimp and save through a lifetime of hard work must be protected from conflicted and bad advice. The difference between a plan in a saver's best interest and that of their adviser's could mean the difference between retiring or not; visiting their grandchildren or living with them to make ends meet; living in dignity or in despair.

Nine in ten (90%) Americans 50 and older agree that, when giving investment advice to people with retirement savings accounts, financial professionals should be *required* to give advice in the best interest of the account holders. And two-thirds (66%) of Americans over 50 say that they would be less likely to vote for their member of Congress if they were to overturn a rule requiring financial professionals to provide advice in the best interest of their clients.

We encourage you to stand with your hard-working constituents who are doing their best to save for a financially secure retirement and block efforts that would overturn or impede the long-overdue Retirement Security Rule. We look forward to working with you to promote and protect the retirement security of American families. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Clark Flynt-Barr of the AARP Government Affairs staff at <a href="mailto:cflyntbarr@aarp.org">cflyntbarr@aarp.org</a>.

Sincerely,

Nancy LeaMond

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer The Honorable Mitch McConnell The Honorable Patty Murray The Honorable Susan Collins