



March 9, 2017

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey and Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, representing 600,000 employees from thousands of member companies in southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware, I write to express my concerns regarding a recent effort to unravel the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) rules that allow states and large cities to create retirement security plans for private-sector workers.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed resolutions, H.J. Res 66 and H.J. Res 67, which repeal DOL rules that grant safe harbor from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act for states and municipalities that create individual retirement account programs for workers who do not have access to retirement plans through their employers. The resolutions now move to the U.S. Senate. If passed by the Senate and signed by the President, the resolutions will permanently repeal the rules.

Workers that have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans are more apt to save for their retirement than those without access to such plans. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts' analysis of U.S. census data, U.S. workers accumulate most of their retirement savings through their jobs, but more than one-third of full-time employees lack access to a workplace retirement plan. Many states and municipalities are addressing these statistics by developing ways to encourage retirement savings, which would reduce spending on social assistance programs that can strain state and municipal budgets.

We are concerned that H.J. Res 66 and H.J. Res 67 would prevent states and municipalities from encouraging retirement savings for those who lack access to workplace retirement plans. I urge your added consideration of any federal limitations to the ability of states and municipalities to address retirement savings challenges at the more localized level.

We are eager to work through this issue with you and your office as it advances in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Wonderling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Wonderling  
President and CEO