

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 7, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write to urge you to protect existing tax incentives that promote retirement savings among American workers. A core component of the American dream is undoubtedly a comfortable and financially stable retirement. Changes to the existing system, particularly so-called "Rothification," which would eliminate or drastically limit pre-tax retirement savings incentives, serve to threaten the ability of the middle class to save for retirement. Such a change is unacceptable.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans are one of the primary vehicles for retirement savings in our country. According to Pew Charitable Trusts, seventy three percent of eligible workers making between \$25,000 and \$49,999 participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan when such a plan is offered, making this a critical benefit for middle-class Americans. Further research by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that, regardless of income level, participating workers making \$10,000 per year or more contribute an average of at least \$2,700 to their accounts. Eighty percent of households with a retirement account cite the tax benefits of the account as a key incentive in their decision to save.

Tax reform should be about strengthening the financial security of low-income and middle class Americans, both today and into the future. Congress needs to do more to improve retirement incentives for the American people, not less. Dramatically altering incentives for retirement simply to raise short-term revenue to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy is a cynical ploy that will harm hardworking Americans in every state. We urge you to reject any legislation that would harm the incentives on which Americans rely today to save for their retirement.


Sincerely,




PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

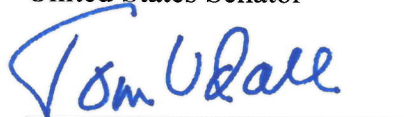

TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator


MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator


JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

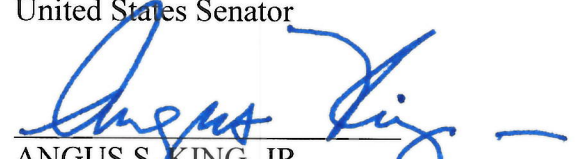

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

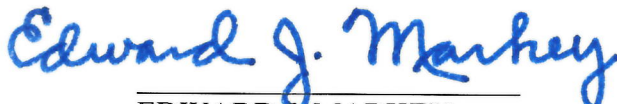

CORY A. BOOKER
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TOM UDALL
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