

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Received: March 17, 2017
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1k1-8vb6-9gjc
Comments Due: April 17, 2017
Submission Type: API

Docket: EBSA-2010-0050

Definition of the Term “Fiduciary”; Conflict of Interest Rule—Retirement Investment Advice

Comment On: EBSA-2010-0050-3491

Definition of Term Fiduciary; Conflict of Interest Rule-Retirement Investment

Document: EBSA-2010-0050-DRAFT-16714

Comment on FR Doc # 2017-04096

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General Comment

I support the implementation of the Department of Labor's conflict of interest rule and oppose any delay of the rule.

Millions of Americans are counting on their 401(k)s and IRAs, and many depend on investment professionals for advice about managing these complex retirement plans. We should be able to trust our financial advisers to put our interests first. Unfortunately, the rules that have applied to retirement investment advice have made it too easy for unscrupulous advisers to line their own pockets at our expense.

The DOL rule would close the loopholes in the law that have allowed financial advisers to evade their duty to serve our best interest. It would strengthen protections for retirement savers by requiring financial advisers and their firms to provide retirement investment advice that is in our best interests. As a result, retirement savers will have the confidence that when we go to financial advisers, they are giving high-quality and honest advice, instead of a sales pitch disguised as advice. Americans

who've worked hard to save for retirement need and deserve these basic, common-sense protections.

Delaying implementation of these new protections would allow financial advisers and their firms to continue to engage in harmful conflicts of interest that threaten the retirement security of their hardworking clients. In deciding to delay the rule, that DOL is taking the position that opponents interests in avoiding having to comply with the rule should win out over retirement savers interests in receiving the critical protections from the rule, which is shameful. Retirement savers need and deserve to receive the protections of the rule without delay. The DOL should conclude that the proposed delay is unjustified and that the rule should be implemented beginning on April 10th.

It is important that every day Americans are able to save money for their retirement. Those who we hire to provide advise on financial matters should have our interests in mind, not their own.