Department of Labor,

Americans are in the midst of a retirement security crisis—depending on every dollar they can save to afford a basic standard of living. Conflicted advice costs retirement savers \$17 billion each year. The current fiduciary rule is the right way to deal with this problem. Nothing about the fiduciary standard constrains financial advisers from providing broad-based investment advice to their clients—it would simply require them to do so with increased transparency and reduced conflicts of interest. I urge the Department of Labor to protect working people and retirees by fully implementing and enforcing the fiduciary rule.

Most of all, it does not require rocket science to understand that a declining dollar buys less, requiring more dollars to pay for a given, unchanging need for food, shelter, and clothing -- and education. A striking comparison: in 1945, wartime, I was paying 55 cents a pound for prime beef. Today, it costs \$13 a pound! Over those years, my "increased income" went into that decreased dollar.

Frieda Stahl fstahl@calstatela.edu 842 E. Villa St. Pasadena, California 91101