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To: EBSA, E-ORI - EBSA
Subject: RIN 1210-AB33

Request for Information Regarding Lifetime Income Options
for Participants and Beneficiaries in Retirement Plans

RIN 1210-AB33

Departments of Labor and Treasury (The Agencies):

I am writing to express my concern regarding the The Agencies consideration of taking steps to annuitize my privately held retirement savings.

As one who has lived in a frugal manner, well within my means, and who has contributed regularly to private retirement savings plans, I very concerned that the government is considering mandating how the funds will be administrated.

By requiring me to annuitize my savings, it would mean that I could not use the available financial resources that I have set aside, throughout many years of employment, in a manner that I deem appropriate. It means that I would not have the capability to invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or exchange traded funds as I see fit. It means that I would not be able to use a lump sum portion of the financial resource to invest in a small business. This proposal is a bad idea for those who have saved diligently, and who have retirement savings well above the median account balance (as identified in the GAO published Report GAO-08-8).

In addition, the worst time to convert lump sum savings into a fixed income annuity, is when interest rates are historically low (as they are now), so income would be significantly lower. The proposal does not seem to address what would happen if one dies before assets are depleted. Under the terms of many annuities, the investment will be forfeited to the insurance company (government?), or considerably reduced by fees or penalties. The program would likely have to be mandatory for it to be successful.

Why, I ask, is the government trying to get control of retirement funds?

This year, federal spending and the debt will create a deficit in the trillions of dollars. Are The Agencies attempting to use my retirement savings to fund the deficit? Clearly, infringing on my private savings is NOT the way to fund government debt. Has the government properly managed Social Security? Medicare? Medicaid? Were the Wall Street bailouts managed properly? The big banks still are not loaning money to deserving businesses and consumers, and the investment bankers are once again getting huge bonuses made possible by taxpayers.

Clearly, this proposal represents a one more bureaucratic, elitist, redistribution of wealth, and another theft of my economic and political freedom.

Another government bureaucracy to administrate my private savings....I don't think so.

Regards,

Terry D. Blough