PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Docket: EBSA-2014-0016
Fiduciary - Conflict of Interest Exemptions

Comment On: EBSA-2014-0016-0013
All Fiduciary - Conflict of Interest Proposed Exemptions

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Submitter Information

Name: Laurie Itkin

General Comment

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor

RE: RIN 1210-AB32

Dear Secretary Perez,

Although I appreciate the Department's effort to ensure that consumers are served by financial professionals who adhere to a fiduciary standard, I believe a specific provision in the proposed rules would adversely impact the availability of certain investment strategies within retail investors' individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

I am the author of the Amazon best seller, "Every Woman Should Know Her Options: Invest Your Way to Financial Empowerment." I wrote the book to increase financial literacy among women and give them tools to become financially confident and empowered regarding investing. In the book I teach two option strategies (writing cash secured puts and covered calls) that I believe are more conservative than investing in individual stocks or exchange-traded funds by themselves because option premium generates income that can offset the volatility inherent in equity investing. Covered calls, for example, allow investors to profit from stock investing in three ways: 1) capital appreciation; 2) dividend income; and 3) call option premium.
I do not understand why the Administration would choose to eliminate sound retirement strategies that can reduce risk in an IRA and therefore request the Department amend the proposed rule so that conservative option strategies continue to be available to IRA holders.

Sincerely,

Laurie Itkin
Author, Every Woman Should Know Her Options
www.theoptionslady.com
San Diego, CA

Attachments

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