



June 8, 2005

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith, Chairman
US Senate Special Committee on Aging
G31 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad
530 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith and Senator Conrad:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Smith-Conrad Retirement Savings and Security Act of 2005. The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC)¹ applauds your efforts to enhance retirement savings and security. Because ERIC's members are engaged daily with meeting the demands of both their enterprise and the needs of employees, we believe that Congressional support for stronger, efficient, cost-effective retirement savings plans is essential to maintaining a vibrant American workforce and a strong economy.

We appreciate very much your development of bipartisan legislation that seeks to provide employers with flexible incentives to adopt automatic enrollment programs, expand the Savers Credit so that employers will have the tools necessary to help their employees take advantage of the credit, and encourage the markets to develop and offer guaranteed lifetime income payment streams for participants in defined contribution plans.

We are confident that, as our members continue to review The Retirement Savings and Security Act of 2005 to determine how the proposal will impact employer plans, we can help ensure that workers will be able to save more through the discipline and security of voluntary employer sponsored plans. Accordingly, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the legislation is responsive to strengthening all types of plans under the voluntary employer based system.

Again, we look forward to working with you on The Retirement Savings and Security Act of 2005 and other legislation that encourages employers to provide sound retirement savings plans.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Ugoretz
President

¹ ERIC is a nonprofit association committed to the advancement of the employee retirement, health, incentive, and compensation plans of America's major employers. ERIC's members provide comprehensive benefits to tens of millions of active and retired workers and their families and beneficiaries. ERIC's members' plans are the benchmarks against which industry, third-party providers, consultants, and policy makers measure the design and effectiveness of employee benefit, incentive, and compensation plans.

