



AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Richard Burr
United State Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-3308

Dear Senator Burr:

The American Benefits Council ("The Council") commends you for your leadership on retirement policy and your recognition of the importance of the current tax incentives that underpin the nation's employer-sponsored retirement system and the retirement security of millions of Americans.

The Council is a public policy organization representing principally Fortune 500 companies and other organizations that assist employers of all sizes in providing benefits to employees. Collectively, the Council's members either sponsor directly or provide services to retirement and health plans that cover more than 100 million Americans.

We understand and support policymakers' need to examine tax provisions and spending programs to protect our economy. However, workplace retirement plans improve workers' standard of living during retirement and as a result make retirees less dependent on government programs. Proposals that encourage and support the ability of employers to offer retirement plans to their employees will contribute to greater retirement security for workers and their families. Revenue-raising measures reducing these tax incentives would produce small short-term revenue gains at the expense of long-term policy and economic problems by undermining retirement security.

Amendment #221 to the Senate Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 8) recognizes the value of the current tax incentives for defined contribution and defined benefit pension plans maintained by employers across the country on behalf of workers and retirees. We support efforts to ensure that retirement plan proposals are based on retirement policy objectives.

We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to strengthen the employer-sponsored retirement system as a critical element of a secure financial future for American families.

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Dudley
Senior Vice President, Retirement and International Benefits Policy