

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Government Affairs

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

November 30, 2005

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Majority Whip
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blunt:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region. Our members are retirement plan sponsors and plan professionals for all types of retirement plans including traditional defined benefit plans, cash balance and hybrid plans, multiemployer plans, and defined contribution plans. Comprehensive pension reform affects all of these plans and, if done correctly, will strengthen our retirement system.

The Chamber strongly requests that comprehensive pension reform be considered on the House floor as soon as possible. While there remain good-faith disagreements over the best way to address current defined benefit funding problems and related issues, it is important that legislation, now favorably reported by both the Education and the Workforce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, move forward before the end of this year in order to leave adequate time to resolve these issues in conference.

Retirement plan sponsors have proven their commitment to the system by establishing and maintaining retirement plans covering millions of workers and are now depending on Congress to help them to continue to support the retirement system. Again, we urge the House to take up the legislation as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten