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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 16, 2001

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your letter responding to my concerns about the Retirement Security and Savings Act of 2001 (S. 742). I appreciate your willingness to take steps to revise the bill's provision concerning the automatic rollover of certain mandatory distributions or eliminate that provision if it proves to be unworkable. Resolving this issue will eliminate many concerns raised by small business owners across the nation.

In addition, I appreciated the opportunity to talk with you today about the top-heavy rules. As we discussed, I believe the optimal solution is simply to repeal these outdated rules. Short of that, however, we can make a number of revisions that will provide meaningful relief from the unnecessary complexities and compliance costs that the top-heavy rules represent, especially for small businesses.

Your willingness to work with me on these issues gives me confidence that we can address the automatic-rollover provision and the revisions to the top-heavy rules before this legislation is signed into law. Accordingly, please add my name as a co-sponsor of Retirement Security and Savings Act.

Again, thank you for your commitment to the cause of pension reform and simplification, and I am grateful for the hard work of Diann Howland of the Finance Committee staff on this bill. I look forward to continuing our efforts to enact the strongest legislation possible for the benefit of the country's small businesses and the millions of Americans saving for their retirement.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman