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Request for Information Regarding Lifetime Income Options for Participants and Beneficiaries in Retirement Plans

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General Comment

To whom it may concern,

At a time when Social Security and Medicare are quickly becoming insolvent, many Americans such as myself have turned to individual retirement accounts as a way to provide for our own retirement. Frankly, most Americans under the age of 45 do not believe Social Security benfits will be provided to them. So now we have this proposed arrangement where individuals will have the option to move private funds to yet another federal pool of money - one that will certainly not be saved by Congress, nor spent as we intended.

The problem with the logic of the "optional" rollover to these fixed income streams the Government would promise is twofold: (i) the Government has already made such promises (Social Security) and looks increasingly unable to meet their long term obligations to provide future benefits; and (ii) private investors already have the option to buy T-Bills and other Government securities as a part (or all) of their retirement savings portfolio. It says all you need to know that investors currently choose NOT to do so, as the national debt is making such "safe" investments in Government securities increasingly unappealing.

Were I cynical, I'd think that this proposed rule is just a way to get Government's foot in the door - a first step toward a mandatory re-investment of 401(k) and other IRAs into a Government-run retirement scheme destined to collapse under its own weight.

This rule is being floated at a time when demand for Government securities is slackening, at a time when annual deficits are skyrocketing, and during an administration that has shown no hesitation in nationalizing and socializing any number of areas of our otherwise private sector (banks, autos, healthcare).

This rule is an obvious first step toward the mandatory re-investment of private savings accounts into an area where the Government can spend it - just as they have our Social Security trust fund.

No thank you. Hands off the 401Ks.