

# 2022 FEDERAL RETIREMENT SECURITY BLUEPRINT

## FACILITATE INNOVATION, MODERNIZATION AND EDUCATION

### REDUCE THE REGULATORY BARRIERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND OFFERING OF INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS SUCH AS REGISTERED INDEX-LINKED ANNUITIES

Registered Index-Linked Annuities (RILAs) offer a way for investors to bring a balance to their retirement savings portfolio by allowing the purchaser the opportunity to participate in some market growth along with a reduced downside exposure to partially protect the investor from market losses. The current regulatory framework has created a significant barrier preventing this innovative retirement income product from being offered by more companies and used by more investors, which effectively impairs consumer choice without any corresponding benefit to consumers. To encourage innovation and ensure investors can easily find the information they need about RILAs and other innovative new products without having

to wade through irrelevant, excessive, and confusing disclosure documents, the SEC should develop new registration forms more closely tailored to the products being offered, rather than relying on existing forms which were designed for use in connection with equity offerings and are not designed or well-suited for insurance products. **In the absence of voluntary action by the SEC, Congress should enact legislation such as the “*Registration for Index-Linked Annuities (RILA) Act*” ([S.3198/H.R.4865-117th Congress](#)), which would direct the SEC to remove a barrier inhibiting the use of an innovative retirement income product by developing a new registration form better suited for insurance products.**

### STREAMLINE HOW CONSUMERS RECEIVE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS SUCH AS STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Technology has become dramatically more available and reliable in the past twenty years since the current laws governing electronic communications for commerce were enacted. The drafters of the *Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act* ([Public Law 106-229](#)) were concerned that consumers would not be able to access the programs necessary to receive electronically transmitted documents. However, with Internet browsers and electronic forms becoming standardized and readily available for free

through the public domain becoming standardized those concerns of have not materialized. **Congress should enact legislation, such as the “*E-SIGN Modernization Act*” ([S.4159-116th Congress](#)), which would streamline how consumers receive electronic communications by removing outdated requirements while ensuring retirement savers can continue to choose how they want to receive and access their financial information.**

## PROMOTE INTERSTATE E-COMMERCE BY RECOGNIZING REMOTE AND ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATIONS PERFORMED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE NOTARY IS COMMISSIONED

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed how consumers go about their daily lives and conduct business. Social distancing measures became necessary to combat the spread of the virus, and many businesses adopted digital solutions. However, various laws and rules applicable to the insured retirement industry require individuals to be physically present to conduct business and access the products and services needed to prepare for their retirement. While both federal and state regulators responded to the pandemic by authorizing temporary relief measures, making those temporary measures

permanent would best serve retirement savers. **Congress should enact legislation, such as the “*Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act*” ([S.1625/H.R.3962-117th Congress](#)), which would establish minimum federal standards for the nationwide use of remote online notarizations and ensure that all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and territories of the United States recognize the use of current technologies for interstate notarizations and essential transactions executed in the conduct of interstate commerce.**

## ESTABLISH A NATIONAL, ONLINE “LOST AND FOUND” FOR RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Today, workers in America change jobs more frequently, and they often leave retirement savings in plans maintained by their previous employers. Over the past decade, 25 million workplace retirement plan participants changed jobs and left behind a retirement savings plan. Millions more have left two or more accounts, resulting in roughly \$8.5 billion in “lost” retirement savings. **To facilitate workers tracking their past and possibly forgotten workplace retirement accounts, Congress should enact legislation, such as the “*Retirement Savings Lost and Found Act*” ([S.1730/H.R.5832-117th Congress](#)),**

**“*Retirement Security and Savings Act*” ([S.1770-117th Congress](#)), the “*Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement Act*” ([H.R. 5891-117th Congress](#)), or the “*Securing a Strong Retirement Act*” ([H.R.2954-117th Congress](#)), which would establish a national, digital database utilizing information already provided to the Department of Treasury, where retirement savers can locate their former employer-sponsored retirement savings accounts to ensure they are not leaving retirement savings behind.**

## EXTEND RETIREMENT SAVINGS COUNSELING TO FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN, JOB TRAINING, AND APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

The federal government has mandated financial counseling for federal student loan borrowers to improve their financial literacy when entering and exiting college. However, these counseling sessions do not provide any information about the many workplace retirement savings choices presented when they graduate college and enter the workforce. This lack of education about workplace retirement savings options is also an issue for those individuals who have completed a federally funded job training or apprentice program as they enter the market searching for employment. **Congress should enact legislation, such as the “*Financial Fitness Act*” ([H.R.5779-117th Congress](#)), which would direct the Secretary of Education to create a centralized financial resources**

**portal on the Department’s website for federal financial aid recipients that will provide information about planning and saving for their retirement as part of its financial literacy content. Congress should also extend this resource to the recipients of federally funded job training and apprentice programs.** Making information about retirement savings available to all the recipients of these federal financial assistance and training programs will help them better understand the different types of retirement savings accounts and risk options and help them make well-informed decisions to develop their own sustainable retirement savings strategies during their working years.

## ESTABLISH A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

There are many workers and retirees in America today who still cannot equitably access, properly utilize, and successfully reap the benefits of the financial system to build short-term stability and long-term financial security. This challenge is especially prevalent among people of color when it comes to saving for their retirement during their working years. These underserved populations most often lag far behind in participating in employer-based retirement plans and accumulating retirement savings. To advance greater diversity, equity, and inclusion among people of color and address their retirement insecurity, **the President should establish a Commission on Financial Inclusion at the Treasury Department. The Commission**

**would partner with the financial services industry and community organizations to develop a whole-of-government strategy that seeks out solutions that can increase access to financial services and reduce retirement insecurity among people of color.** The Commission would also analyze and coordinate the review of federal policies, rules, and regulations as they are being developed to ensure their compatibility with financial inclusion objectives. **In the absence of action by the administration, Congress should enact legislation to establish a Commission on Financial Inclusion.**