



2026 Federal Retirement Security Blueprint

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The enactment of the *Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act of 2019* and the *SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022* addressed some of the challenges facing America's workers and retirees in their pursuit of a secure and dignified retirement. While significant enhancements occurred, much more can be done to bolster retirement security in the United States.

IRI's 2026 Federal Retirement Security Blueprint offers Members of Congress, the White House, and federal agencies bipartisan, common-sense policies to help workers and retirees achieve financial security and sustain their income throughout retirement.

Facilitate the Greater Use of Protected, Guaranteed Lifetime Income Solutions

Enhance 403(b) Plans to Authorize the Use of CITs & Unregistered Insurance Company Separate Accounts

- » Congress should enact the [Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act](#) or Section 202 of the [Incentivizing New Ventures and Economic Strength Through Capital Formation \(INVEST\) Act](#).

Expand the Use of Lifetime Income Products as Default Investment Options

- » Congress should enact the [Lifetime Income for Employees Act](#).

Require Lifetime Income Options to be Offered in Defined Contribution Plans

- » Congress should enact legislation that requires defined contribution plans to give participants the option to direct a portion of their savings into protected, guaranteed lifetime income solutions.
- » Congress should enact legislation providing that employers who offer protected, guaranteed lifetime income solutions as a default distribution option for participants in defined contribution plans will have satisfied their fiduciary duties under the [Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974](#) (ERISA) so long as participants are notified of the default annuitization option and have the right to opt-out at the time of distribution.
- » Congress should enact legislation that would establish a "qualified payout option" (Q-PON) that requires employers who have at least ten employees and have provided a plan for at least three years to offer a combination of income and payout solutions that participants can select from at retirement.

Authorize the use of Indexed & Variable Annuities in QLACs

- » Congress should enact legislation, such as Section 201(5) of the [Retirement Security and Savings Act of 2021](#).

Establish a Safe Harbor for Selecting Annuities & Other In-Plan Lifetime Income Products

- » Congress should enact legislation clarifying that the annuity selection safe harbor ([P.L.116-94, Div. O, Section 204](#)) will provide a plan sponsor with the same protections in selecting an annuity contract or other in-plan lifetime income products.

Clarify Fiduciary Status for Providers of General Account Insurance Products in Workplace Retirement Plans

- » Congress should enact the [General Accounts Product Clarifications Act](#).

Enable Savers to Purchase Lifetime Income as an In-Service Rollover

- » Congress should enact the [Retirement Simplification and Clarity Act](#).

Expand Opportunities to Save for Retirement

Require Employers to Offer Retirement Plans to Employees

- » Congress should enact the [Automatic IRA Act of 2025](#).

Automatically Re-Enroll Employees Within Three Years of Opting Out

- » Congress should enact the [Auto Re-enroll Act of 2025](#).
- » Congress should enact a law to provide a tax credit to encourage small business adoption of automatic re-enrollment.

Decrease the Age of Participation in Workplace Retirement Plans to Age 18

- » Congress should enact the [Helping Young Americans Save for Retirement Act](#).

Allow Catch-Up Contributions for Qualified Caregivers

- » Congress should enact the [Expanding Access to Retirement Savings for Caregivers Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Improving Retirement Security for Family Caregivers Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Catching Up Family Caregivers Act](#).

Allow Roth IRAs to be Rolled Over into Roth Workplace Plans

- » Congress should enact [H.R.6757-118th Congress](#).
- » Congress should further clarify that a rollover from an IRA into an employer-sponsored plan should not be treated as a qualified distribution.

Offer Workplace Retirement Plans to State-Legal Cannabis Businesses

- » Congress should enact legislation such as the [Secure and Fair Enforcement \(SAFE\) Banking Act](#) or the [SAFER Banking Act](#).
- » The [SAFE Banking Act](#) and the [SAFER Banking Act](#) should be amended to provide certainty and clarity to broker-dealers and investment advisors.

Foster Innovation, Modernization, Education, & Advice

Support and Maintain Appropriate & Consistent Standards of Conduct for Financial Professionals

- » Congress and the Administration should take appropriate steps to support and uphold the existing frameworks across the SEC, the DOL, and the states to protect retirement savers from being harmed by the Biden-era fiduciary rule.

Provide Retirement Income Education

- » Congress and the Administration should consider updating and amending ERISA to ensure workplace retirement plans focus on helping workers attain a secure retirement income.

Include Retirement in Federal Student Loan, Job Training, & Apprenticeship Counseling

- » Congress should enact the [Financial Fitness Act](#).
- » Congress should also direct the Secretary of Labor to extend this resource to the recipients of federally funded job training and apprenticeship programs.

Require the Inclusion of Longevity Risk Language in Annual Plan Notices

- » The DOL should be directed to enhance required language of annual plan notices to warn of risks associated with an individual outliving retirement savings.

Authorize Consistent Registrations for Non-Variable Products

- » The SEC should authorize using the revised Form N-4 to register Registered Market-Value Adjusted Annuities, Contingent Deferred Annuities, and all other non-variable annuities.
- » The SEC should amend Form N-6 in a manner consistent with the RILA Act and permit the registration of registered index-linked insurance products and all other non-variable insurance products on the amended Form N-6.
- » If the SEC does not authorize the use of Forms N-4 and N-6, Congress should enact legislation directing the Commission to allow the use of amended appropriate registration forms.

Streamline How Consumers Receive Electronic Documents

- » Congress should enact the [E-SIGN Modernization Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Improving Disclosure for Investors Act](#) or Section 205 of the [Incentivizing New Ventures and Economic Strength Through Capital Formation \(INVEST\) Act](#).

Authorize the National Use of Remote & Electronic Notarizations

- » Congress should enact the [Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act](#).

Authorize Portability for SIMPLE IRA Savers

- » Congress should enact the [SAVE Act](#).

Expand the Use of Single Filing of Form 5500 to Group of Plans of All Sizes

- » Congress should enact legislation clarifying that plans filing under a Group of Plans should be allowed to file a single Form 5500 regardless of size since they utilize the same investment options, fiduciary, and trustees as larger-sized plans.

Boost Protections to Safeguard Consumers

Ensure a Balanced Approach to the Regulation of Environmental, Social, & Governance Investments

- » Congress should enact legislation that codifies the principle of neutrality in considering ESG and non-ESG factors, so long as the principles of prudence and loyalty are met by a plan fiduciary.

Establish a Federal Regulatory Framework to Govern the Use of Cryptocurrency in Retirement Plans

- » Congress should examine and develop an appropriate federal regulatory framework to effectively oversee cryptocurrencies and the cryptocurrency market in general, as well as the potential use of cryptocurrencies in retirement in particular.

Strike a Balanced Approach to Regulating the Use of AI by the Insured Retirement Industry

- » Congress and the Administration should examine the growing use of generative AI and consider existing insurance regulations before developing a federal regulatory framework to govern its use by the insured retirement industry.

Increase Protections and Resources to Combat Financial Fraud & Exploitation

- » Congress should enact the [Senior Security Act](#) or Section 204 of the [Incentivizing New Ventures and Economic Strength Through Capital Formation \(INVEST\) Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Financial Exploitation Prevention Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Empowering States to Protect Seniors from Bad Actors Act](#).
- » Congress should enact the [Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act](#).

Increase Protections & Safeguards for Personal Financial Information

- » Congress should enact legislation establishing uniform standards for privacy, security, and notification requirements that preempt the growing patchwork of state regulatory regimes.
- » Congress should consider the unique aspects of different industries by providing a broadly applicable framework that takes existing federal protections — such as those provided under the [Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act](#) — into consideration.
- » Congress should ensure that legislation enacted relies on regulatory enforcement rather than a private right of action.

Prohibit the Private Collection of Tax Debt Owed by Older Americans

- » Congress should amend the law mandating the IRS's use of private debt collection agencies to prohibit the assignment of tax debt of any individual over the age of 65 to any authorized private debt collection agency.

Increase Awareness of Account Takeover Fraud

- » IRI will work with Congress, law enforcement, and state regulators to emphasize the need for increased resources to investigate and prosecute the bad actors committing these crimes against Americans' financial security.

Authorize New Tax Incentives to Bolster Retirement Savings

Provide Nonprofit Organizations Access to Plan Start-Up Credits

- » Congress should enact legislation, such as the [Small Nonprofit Retirement Security Act](#).

Increase the Tax Credit for Adoption of Automatic Enrollment & Escalation Features

- » Congress should enact legislation that increases the tax credit for small businesses that adopt automatic enrollment and escalation features into their retirement savings plan.

Provide Favorable Tax Treatment for Guaranteed Lifetime Income

- » Congress should create tax incentives — such as a lower tax rate, an exclusion of a portion of lifetime annuity income from taxation, or an increased catch-up contribution — to encourage greater use of guaranteed lifetime income products.