



February 13, 2017

RE: House Joint Resolutions 66 and 67

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy
US House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy,

As a leading representative of the 28 million small businesses in America, Small Business Majority writes today urging you to oppose HJR 66 and HJR 67, which would overturn the U.S. Department of Labor's rule enabling states to establish retirement savings plans for private sector workers. Striking down this rule would have a chilling effect on states that are setting up their own retirement savings programs, which would be harmful to small businesses and their employees. We strongly believe states should be allowed to decide whether to implement these types of programs and how best to administer them in order to serve small businesses and employees who struggle to save for retirement.

The U.S. currently suffers from a retirement savings gap of more than \$6 trillion, and more than three million households do not have any retirement savings at all. This lack of savings for retirement disproportionately affects those who are employed by small businesses. Eighty percent of workers employed by businesses with fewer than 25 employees do not have any sort of pension or retirement plan at all. This is important because small businesses employ about half of all private sector workers. Unless small business owners and their employees start doing more to prepare for the future, many Americans will not have enough money for their golden years.

Small Business Majority's state opinion polling found small business owners struggle to offer retirement savings programs due to a number of barriers, but they want to offer this benefit to their employees because it helps them attract and retain talent. What's more, the majority of small employers are concerned their employees will not have enough saved for retirement. That's why small businesses overwhelmingly support state efforts to establish state-administered retirement savings programs, like the Secure Choice Savings programs in Illinois and California.

When implemented, these programs will offer a convenient and affordable option for small businesses and their employees to save for the future. What's more, these programs will not be funded by taxpayer dollars, and employers will not contribute to funds, manage funds or have any responsibility for financial advice for their employees' investments.

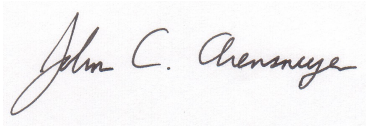
Business owners know offering benefits like retirement savings create a happier and more productive staff, which in turn leads to increased productivity. Many small business owners think of their employees as family, so it's not surprising they support programs that enable them to foster a happier workforce while protecting their workers and their bottom line.

Additionally, programs like these help level the playing field between small businesses that want to offer retirement benefits but can't, and their larger counterparts that can. This helps small businesses compete for the best employees, and gives employers peace of mind that they are doing what's best for their workers.

Small employers need retirement savings options for their employees that make sense for their business and their bottom line. State-administered retirement savings programs, like those currently being established in California and Illinois, can help many small business employees better save for

their futures. We urge you to uphold the Labor Department's rule and allow states to decide how best to serve their small businesses and private sector workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "A".

John Arensmeyer, Small Business Majority