



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

May 3, 2017

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Daniel T. Blue, JR
*Senate Democratic Leader
North Carolina
President, NCSL*

Raúl E. Burciaga
*Director
Legislative Council Service
New Mexico
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Dear Senator Heinrich:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bi-partisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, applauds the introduction of the "Preserve Rights Of States and Political Subdivisions To Encourage Retirement Savings Act," also known as the "PROSPERS Act." This legislation recognizes the role of states, as the laboratories of democracy, to develop and implement innovative solutions to our nation's problems. PROSPERS would improve the retirement security of the private sector workforce and will also save taxpayers billions of dollars.

As the number of workers who lack enough savings to cover the costs of retirement expenses continues to grow, states need the flexibility to develop creative solutions to this problem. PROSPERS will ensure states' abilities to establish private sector savings plans, which, in addition to providing workers the ability to save for retirement, will save taxpayers' money because states and the federal government are ultimately responsible for funding the social safety programs that are utilized by retirees who are not financially independent. Eight states have enacted laws that will establish state-facilitated retirement plans and many other states are considering these plans for their state's private sector workers.

In lieu of federal inaction to address the retirement security crisis, the PROSPERS Act will ensure that states are not restricted in their efforts to address the problem. The legislation will also reduce federal and state spending as tens of millions of Americans who, with retirement savings, will not depend solely on social security and other social safety net programs in their "golden years." NCSL commends the introduction of this legislation and urges Congress to swiftly consider and pass it.

If you have any questions, please contact Max Behlke (202-624-3586, max.behlke@ncsl.org) in NCSL's Washington D.C. Office.

Sincerely,

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures