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United States Senate

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April 7, 2014

Ms. Catherine Weatherford
President and CEO
Insured Retirement Institute
1101 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Weatherford:

Encouraging retirement savings is an issue of critical importance. Most U.S. households are simply ill-prepared for retirement. Many are struggling in the current economy, but even those who are managing to set aside some funds often give too little, invest poorly, or withdraw funds early. While we have made progress, more can be done to ensure that every American enjoys a financially secure and dignified retirement.

Enhancing retirement security has been a top priority of mine throughout my tenure in Congress. I have worked to make bipartisan improvements to our nation's retirement system that have increased Americans' ability to live more securely in their retirement years. And I'll continue to work to shore up many different areas of our retirement policy—coverage, savings accumulation, distribution—so that American households of all income levels can enjoy their later stages of life without enduring significant financial hardships.

In addition to making these improvements to our retirement system, we must also ensure that individuals and families understand the value and take advantage of retirement incentives. Enhancing these incentives to save should be coupled with the ability to make sound decisions through financial education, such as the responsible planning communicated through the National Retirement Planning Coalition and National Retirement Planning Week. I applaud you for your leadership in spearheading the Coalition and commend all the coalition members for their efforts. I wish you all the best as you continue this valuable campaign this year.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator