



AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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May 20th, 2010

United States House of Representatives
WASHINGTON DC 20001

Dear Representative,

We were disappointed that you are currently listed as a sponsor of Representative Pomeroy's union pension fund bailout bill (HR 3936) which puts the taxpayers on the hook for \$165 billion in unfunded union pension liabilities. We respectfully ask that you join Congressman Pence in dropping your sponsorship of this legislation.

While the legislation deals with some challenging issues related to retiree pensions, it is our view that it in fact rewards bad behavior. Those who are asking Congress for this change are largely responsible for the plight of these pension funds, having failed to take the steps to rectify problems that have been looming since well before the stock market drop and recovery over the past two years.

Union leaders' unwillingness to sacrifice pension benefits or push back retirement dates in response to the obvious financial trouble facing these funds have exacerbated the "crisis".

Union leaders' failure to prioritize negotiating for increased pension payments by employers in lieu of other immediate member benefits have left many of these funds in dire circumstances.

Union leaders' unwillingness to have participants participate or increase their participation in the funding of these pension programs demonstrates a unique intransigence to dealing with their own problems.

Union leaders' decision to expend hundreds of millions of dollars each election cycle to influence elections rather than devoting these resources to solving their unfunded pension plans is a decision for which they should be held accountable.

Now, these same union leaders have the audacity to try to cash in on their political investment by foisting these unfunded liabilities accumulated under their watch onto the backs of taxpayers, who are struggling to fund their own retirements.

According to a 2009 Moody's report the Major League Baseball Players Association pension fund and the National Football League Players Association fund are both only 60% funded, putting them in the critical list. The Pomeroy bill would allow them to transfer their liabilities to taxpayers. Do you really think taxpayers should fund pensions for millionaire athletes?

This issue will be in the media next week as the Senate HELP committee considers their virtually identical version of the legislation, and it would be an ideal time to drop your sponsorship of HR 3936.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

William Wilson
President
Americans for Limited Government