

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monday, March 14, 2005

**HELP & FINANCE COMMITTEES SCHEDULE PENSION FORUM TO DRAW
PERSPECTIVES ON DEFINED RETIREMENT REFORMS**

Washington, D.C. - The Chairmen of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), and the Senate Finance Committee today said held a joint Committee Forum, "Private-Sector Retirement Savings Plans: What Does the Future Hold," March 15.

The Forum is scheduled for 10 a.m. in SDG-50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the HELP Committee and U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, (R-IA) Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced.

"Hard-working Americans rely upon these plans with hopes that they will sustain them into retirement," Enzi said. "This Joint Forum will help us work with Chairman Grassley and the Senate Finance Committee to draw a broad perspective on the future of retirement benefit plans and, ultimately, help our Committees draft bills to ensure that current and future pension laws do not leave workers' retirement benefits at unreasonable risk of loss."

The Forum will focus on three key areas: evolution of private-sector retirement savings and pension plans over the next 20 years and beyond; the impact of the nation's changing workforce on the development of retirement benefit plans; and the role private sector retirement savings and pension plans will play in promoting global competitiveness for U.S. businesses.

About 17 representatives from business, labor, and financial services groups as well as trade associations have been invited to participate, including:

Cynthia S. Bowers, VP of Compensation & Benefits, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation
David Certner, Director, Federal Affairs, AARP
Kevin M. Covert, VP and Deputy General Counsel, Honeywell
Mark K. Dunbar, President, Dunbar, Bender & Zapf, Inc.
Glenn English, CEO, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Karen Friedman, Director of Policy Strategies, Pension Rights Center
Don Fuerst, Worldwide Partner, Mercer Human Resource Consulting
Douglas Garrison, Manager, Global Benefits Design, Exxon-Mobil
Ron Gebhardtshauer, Senior Pension Fellow, American Academy of Actuaries

C. Robert Henrikson, President, MetLife
Dan Houston, Senior VP, Principal Financial
John Kimpel, Senior VP and Deputy GC, Fidelity Investments
William McNabb, Managing Director, Client Relationship Group, Vanguard
Dallas Salisbury, President and CEO, Employee Benefits Research Institute
Pamela S Schutz, President and CEO, Retirement Income and Investments, Genworth
Financial
Gene Sperling, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress
Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO