The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
United States Senate  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.J. Resolution 66 and H.J. Resolution 67

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy,

I am writing to urge you to vote “no” on H.J. Resolution 66 and H.J. Resolution 67, repealing U.S. Department of Labor regulations regarding state-administered retirement programs for private sector workers.

In 2014, Connecticut was one of the first states in the country to establish a task force focused on retirement savings for private sector employees without access to an employer-sponsored plan. Over the course of two and a half years, Comptroller Kevin Lembo and I co-chaired the Connecticut Retirement Security Board (“CRSB”), which ultimately recommended the creation of a retirement savings program in Connecticut. Last year, the General Assembly formally established an Authority to oversee this program, and work is currently underway to get the Authority up and running.

At this critical juncture, just before the most important work is slated to begin, there is federal legislation that may halt it in its tracks. Earlier this week, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Joint Resolutions 66 and 67, which would void regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Labor that give us the flexibility we need to implement the program. Key provisions in the regulations allow the establishment of retirement security programs for private-sector workers without undue regulatory burdens that would imperil the feasibility of the programs.
These resolutions have been sent to the Senate, and I strongly urge you to vote “no” on both of them. I also would ask that you work with your colleagues to defeat them.

Attached you will find a letter signed by 15 state treasurers and other government officials from around the country that provides further information. Each of these officials is working to implement a retirement security initiative, and they see H.J. Resolutions 66 and 67 as damaging, at best, and fatal, at worst, to their efforts.

My staff stands ready to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Denise L. Nappier
Treasurer, State of Connecticut

cc Governor Dannel Malloy
    Comptroller Kevin Lembo
    Labor and Public Employees Committee, Connecticut General Assembly