

What Secure Choice Supporters Are Saying About the Passage of HJR66

“California’s efforts to build a brighter financial future for its citizens will not be derailed by this unfortunate instance of federal overreach. AARP strongly supported the passage of the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Act, and we remain 100% committed to doing all we can to facilitate a smooth implementation of the program. California’s working men and women whose employers do not offer a 401k or other retirement savings plan deserve to have the same kinds of savings opportunities enjoyed by their fellow citizens, and that’s why AARP remains staunchly committed to supporting Secure Choice.”

- *Nancy McPherson, California State Director, AARP. (Contact Hilda Marella-Delgado at hdelgado@aarp.org, 626-429-7072)*

“Today’s action is undoubtedly a setback for millions of hardworking families, advocacy groups and responsible lawmakers who have fought for these municipal and state-based plans. Nevertheless, these resolutions will not stop the movement to ensure all working Americans have the retirement they’ve earned and deserve. We are as determined as ever to proceed with the launch of California Secure Choice. It is our duty to stand up and fight back to address the retirement crisis in this country. Without action by our elected officials, many working parents will lose their dignity and independence as providers. They will have to rely on their children for financial support when they can no longer work. For millions, it will mean not being able to retire at all. We will keep fighting for retirement security for all.”

- *Yvonne R. Walker, SEIU Local 1000 President and Secure Choice Board Member. (Contact: Sarah Zimmerman, szimmerman@seiuca.org, 408-833-9732)*

“We’re very disappointed that Congress and President Trump revoked a federal rule that helps small businesses and their employees access retirement savings through public retirement programs. California’s small firms need retirement savings options for their employees that make sense for their business and their bottom line, which is why they strongly support the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program. While the now-revoked Department of Labor rule made it easier for states to implement these types of programs, we’re glad California is committed to moving forward with Secure Choice. This is the best move for our state’s small businesses and private-sector employees.

- *Mark Herbert, Small Business Majority California Director. (Contact at mherbert@smallbusinessmajority.org, 916.668.9630)*

"While we are disappointed in the Administration's actions, we know that young adults today face a workforce that provides lower wages and fewer benefits. More Millennials need access to tools for savings so that financial security is in reach for this generation, and we are pleased that California is moving forward to bring us closer to this reality."

-- Gustavo Herrera, Western Regional Director of Young Invincibles. (Contact at gustavo.herrera@younginvincibles.org, 323-332-7641)

"The resolution signed today stifles state and local innovations to solve the retirement crisis for the millions of Americans, including many Latinos, who lack sufficient retirement savings. It makes no sense for Congress to limit the ability of states to help millions of hard-working Americans across the United States take control of their financial futures," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "Congress should not be playing politics with the economic security of our community. NCLR is committed to continue working with our partners in California to move forward with Secure Choice."

-Marisabel Torres, Senior Policy Analyst, Wealth-Building Policy Project at National Council of La Raza. (Contact at mtorres@nclr.org, 213-787-9602)

"As a small business owner, I know firsthand that many small firms don't have the resources to set up a retirement savings account. That's why California's Secure Choice Program will help small businesses like mine compete with larger companies when it comes to hiring and keeping talented employees. Although it is disappointing that politicians in Washington, D.C. don't understand the importance of programs like Secure Choice to small business owners, it's reassuring that California still plans to move forward with its Secure Choice program. That means I'll be able to offer retirement benefits to my employees without putting a burden on them or my business."

-Christin Evans, owner of Booksmith Bookstore in San Francisco. (Contact Mark Herbert, Small Business Majority, at mherbert@smallbusinessmajority.org, 916-668-9630)