



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

XAVIER BECERRA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 13, 2017

Edward Hugler
Acting Secretary of Labor
Office of Regulations and Interpretations
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N-5655
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Attention: Fiduciary Rule Examination (RIN 1210-AB79)

Dear Acting Secretary Hugler:

I write to express my strong support for the “fiduciary” conflict of interest rule, requiring retirement investment advisers to put the best interests of their clients above their own financial gain. The rule is important to ensure that retirees and other consumers putting their trust and life savings in the hands of such advisers will get unbiased advice based solely on what is best for them, and not based on the adviser’s interest in getting a higher commission.

In the course of our law enforcement efforts, we have seen ample evidence of conflicts of interest in the investment arena. Individuals trying to save their hard-earned money for retirement are sold investments which may not be the best choice for them because, unknown to them, the adviser upon whom they are relying is getting extra compensation. This concern is even more acute for the many savers who may be more vulnerable, including the elderly and non-native English speakers, and for those with limited savings for whom every dollar earned is crucial.

Regulations to prohibit these undisclosed conflicts of interest are sorely needed and long overdue, and the fiduciary rule is a step in the right direction. There is no reason for further delay or re-examination of the rule. The process through which it was developed has already been extensive, thorough and inclusive, beginning with an original proposal in 2010, and then a year long process beginning in 2016, in which the final rule was developed. That process included over 3000 public comments from a wide range of viewpoints. The input of many



Acting Secretary Hugler

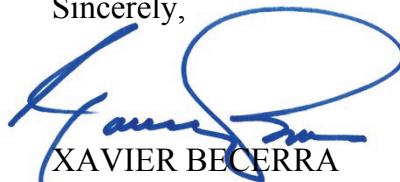
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members of the securities industry as well as consumer and investor advocates and individual savers was taken into account, and the final rule reflects a careful weighing of competing considerations. That's why from my perspective this rule should be called "Savers' Best Interest Rule."

After years of comprehensive study and debate, it is now time to act. I ask that the Department of Labor finally implement these important investor protections, without further delay.

Sincerely,



XAVIER BECERRA
California Attorney General