How to Survive Living to 100: Ways to Improve the U.S. Retirement System

Beverly J. Orth, JD, FSA

Presented at the Living to 100 Symposium Orlando, Fla. January 5–7, 2011

Copyright 2011 by the Society of Actuaries.

All rights reserved by the Society of Actuaries. Permission is granted to make brief excerpts for a published review. Permission is also granted to make limited numbers of copies of items in this monograph for personal, internal, classroom or other instructional use, on condition that the foregoing copyright notice is used so as to give reasonable notice of the Society's copyright. This consent for free limited copying without prior consent of the Society does not extend to making copies for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for inclusion in new collective works or for resale.

Abstract

Workers in the U.S., along with their counterparts around the world, face significant challenges in saving enough funds to last a lifetime. Many who plan for increased longevity and purchase insurance products to protect their assets may still have difficulties if they live to be very old or require extended periods of long-term care.

The U.S. retirement system has many defects that affect individuals' ability to survive living to 100. This paper explores some of the problems that individuals face and recommends changes that could make the U.S. system work better.