



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Pension Section News

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# Can America Afford to Retire?

**Editor's Note:** "Can America Afford to Retire?" is a 16-page paper available from the National Commission on Retirement Policy (NCRP), Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1800 'K' Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C., 20006. Phone: 202-887-0200; Fax: 202-775-3199; Web Site: "www.csis.org/retire/". The NCRP is an initiative of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a public policy research institution.

## DEAR FELLOW AMERICANS:

One of the most daunting public policy challenges of the next decade is how to put federal programs for senior citizens on a sound financial footing. In just a few years, the millions of Americans we call the Baby Boom generation will begin to retire, straining the government's capacity to provide benefits promised under federal entitlement programs.

Quite simply, the nation cannot afford the expected growth rates in the costs of these programs. But this is not just an abstract budgetary problem. Fewer resources at the federal level means that families will have to shoulder more responsibilities themselves in order to provide for a financially secure retirement. They will need to save more: by participating in employer-sponsored pension plans, contributing to Individual Retirement Accounts, and investing in mutual funds or other financial instruments. At the same time, Congress will need to implement reforms to ensure the long-term financial viability of programs such as Social Security.

The National Commission on Retirement Policy, which we are privileged to co-chair, was established to respond to this challenge by educating the American public about the important issues; by laying the foundation for nonpartisan and informed policy debate; and by building a national consensus for the policy changes necessary to put the nation on a long-term path of economic prosperity and ensure a financially secure retirement for all Americans.

*Can America Afford to Retire?* is intended to expand public awareness of these issues and provide the American people with basic factual information that will illustrate the scope and magnitude of the fiscal challenges posed by the impending retirement of the Baby Boom generation. In the months ahead, the Commission will meet with citizens groups and interested constituencies from around the country, as well as economists, academics, and retirement policy experts, with a view of crafting practical policy recommendations that will have the support of the American people and can be enacted into law.

Therefore, we hope that you will take a few minutes to read this publication and share your views and concerns with the Commission and your elected representatives. Well all have a stake in this debate.

*Sincerely,*  
 Judd Gregg, U.S. Senate  
 John Breaux, U.S. Senate  
 Jim Kolbe, U.S. House of Representatives  
 Charles W. Stenholm, U.S. House of Representatives  
 Donald B. Marron, Chairman and CEO, Paine Webber Group Inc.  
 Dr. Charles A. Sanders, Retired Chairman, Glaxo, Inc.

## Request for Proposals

**D**o you enjoy training your company's new actuaries? Would you be interested in an opportunity to build a training program for new actuaries that would be used by employers nationwide?

The Pension Section Council is in the beginning stages of producing a training course for entry-level actuaries, which will eventually be used as the basis for an interactive CD-ROM. We intend to make this available to employers to give them a tool to teach their "raw recruits" basic actuarial concepts.

The Pension Section Council is planning to hire someone to design the initial course with the expectation that the person (or persons) involved in this phase would be given preference in later stages of the project, including coordination with technical experts in setting this up for a CD-ROM presentation.

The request for proposal will be available the week of April 13 on the SOA web site at [www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org) under the Special Interest Sections area. Or, if you would like a copy, contact Lois Chinnock at the SOA by phone at (847) 706-3524 or by e-mail at [lchinnock@soa.org](mailto:lchinnock@soa.org).

If you have any questions about the contents of the request for proposal, please call Amy Timmons, Vice Chairperson of the Pension Section Council, at (303) 714-9940.

We hope to hear from you!