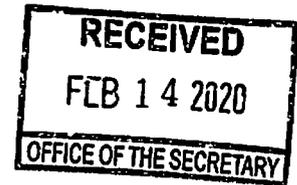


Ms. Vanessa Countryman
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-0609



Re: File No. S7-22-19

Dear Ms. Countryman,

I have attended a number of information sessions about financial security in retirement. I write with concern about the growing effect of political activities that could affect the public pensions and retirement plans of my children and grandchildren and other workers.

Before retiring, I worked as a school nurse for many years in the Providence, RI school system. My husband was a school guidance counselor before he retired. Our combined public pensions provide us a level of financial security. We consider ourselves fortunate. Although a defined benefit retirement plan is much more desirable than defined contribution plans, outside of state or federal government service, most people no longer have pensions.

It is often hard for families but workers with 401(k) plans and other options must be disciplined in contributing to the plans their employers offer and then work closely with financial experts to make the money will last as long as possible. Unlike the predictability of public pension income, the market's performance could have a significant impact on the financial security that these workers will have in their golden years. Of course, even pension income is less reliable than it once was. In recent years, those of us who collect a pension in Rhode Island have had to adjust to the suspension of cost-of-living-adjustments.

As I have educated myself on these issues, I have learned that returns on investment are often affected by resolutions proposed by groups or individuals who want changes at corporations or reallocations of money within funds away from one industry or company or another. These are political, not financial decisions. People's retirement income should not be determined by the political agendas of outside groups or by the proxy firms that manage votes on resolutions proposed to shareholders. Individuals can invest any way they choose but they should not impose these views on retirees or those planning to retire years from now.

I agree with the SEC that it is time to understand more fully the workings of outside firms that often have a major influence on investment allocations and other proposals that shareholders consider. They should be transparent about their recommendations and investors need to fully understand the consequences of votes on politically-influenced resolutions.

Thank you for monitoring this trend and protecting the financial well-being of today's seniors and those still in the work force with the SEC's proposed rules.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Perreault
Seekonk, MA