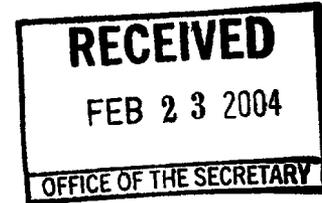


Lawanda Parker, Ph. D.
5500 Seymour Lake Rd.
Oxford, Michigan 48371
February 17, 2004

Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549-0609

168
S7-06-04



Dear Mr. Katz:

It is most embarrassing for me to admit that my education and experience was abandoned when faced with investment decisions to solve that "career takes all my time, I need (investment) help" syndrome. Therefore, recently, I suffered through a horrible, costly experience with a broker and American Skandia. What is even more outrageous, is that absolutely NO government agency did anything to help me. I contacted more than five government agencies and none of them accomplished anything, even though via investigation(s), several of them (privately) indicated they believed that I had been wronged.

Thus, I applaud your feeble efforts at reform but wish to indicate that conditions are so **bad**, a **much more substantial** approach is needed. Misrepresentation, failure to disclose important details, highly exaggerated past performance, outright lies and sales talk all combine to totally rob investors of their hard-earned money. In a matter of days, American Skandia robbed me of approximately forty-five thousand dollars via their "back-end" surrender annuity program (and that was just the beginning). This slick advantage program illustrates just one tactic that translates to huge investor losses on a daily basis, there exists many more. Why aren't these properly investigated and regulated?

Your reform efforts need to be coupled with **required taping of all potential investor's introductory conferences (multiple copies supplied to investor and SEC) and LIMITS on broker fees.** I do not want to discourage your attempt, but I do want to state that "SLICK" brokers will find a **fast** way around what you are planning to do. Yours is nothing more than a band-aid on a gaping wound. That is, the investors you are trying to save with your band-aid are dying on a daily basis. You can say, "see what we've done." My reply will be; "so what, the patient still bled to death."

You simply have no idea what U.S. citizens and investors suffer financially via inadequate, crooked brokers. Your forms need a surgeon-general warning that states: "**This investor broker could be hazardous to your financial well-being, hope of retirement, reward for hard work and joy in life.**"

In addition to inquiring with the SEC regarding fees and expenses, personally, I also contacted the SEC with an exact complaint(s) about a broker/investment firm. You did **nothing** to help me. Unfortunately your response was debilitating. As a regulatory agency, I would hope that your reforms would include some real way to help individual consumers, even after one of your brokers duped them into financial ruin. What is needed is strong, regulatory assistance that penalizes brokers' violations in substantial ways. I challenge you to tape the brokers' conferences with prospective clients, see how many complaints you then receive. Believe me, the only thing that will change (some) brokers' tunes (lies) is knowing that they are being monitored as they speak.

I suppose I should say that something is better than nothing. But of course, when the patient dies financially, something means nothing anyways.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawanda Parker".

Lawanda Parker