

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2009

**HELP EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES  
ACCESS LEGAL SERVICES**

Dear Colleague:

Please join us as we fight to help employers provide legal services to employees. The Legal Services Benefit Act (H.R. 1423) would restore and make permanent the tax-exempt status of qualified group legal services plans.

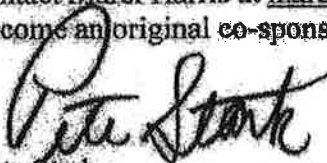
The bill would restore a provision that was originally enacted in 1976 and extended on seven separate occasions between 1981 and 1991. Many employers provided this employee benefit when it was not treated as taxable income to the employees and retirees and were subjected to a tax increase when the provision sunset. Currently, employees and retirees are taxed on the employer's contribution, whether or not they have used the benefit in that tax year.

Group legal services plans provide employees with low cost, basic legal services, including assistance with the purchase of a home, the preparation of a will, probate services and the resolution of domestic relations difficulties, such as child support collection. The typical plan does not allow for suits against the employer, class action cases, or handling fee-generating cases.

Legal plans also provide a significant benefit on a multitude of issues important to working and retired Americans and are a vital component of any retirement educational plan. Legal plans:

- Help employees stay in their homes, and focus on their jobs by providing assistance with loan modifications and foreclosure prevention
- Give investors access to legal services to review the investment documents.
- Provide advice and services regarding wills and trusts, powers of attorney, living wills/ medical directives, insurance claim denials, access to nursing home care, the preservation of assets, guardianship and conservatorship issues.
- Educate clients on how to avoid identity theft and what steps to take if a client is a victim of this crime.

We encourage your support for this important provision and ask you to join us as a cosponsor. Please contact Marci Harris at [marci.harris@mail.house.gov](mailto:marci.harris@mail.house.gov) or Joyce Meyer at [joyce.meyer@mail.house.gov](mailto:joyce.meyer@mail.house.gov) to become an original co-sponsor or if you have any questions.



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Member of Congress



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