



May 27, 2021

The Honorable James Lankford
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Lankford and Bennet:

Thank you for your continued work championing public policies that support, encourage, and strengthen the ability of American families to prepare for and live in retirement. In particular, congratulations and thank you for introducing your bipartisan Enhancing Emergency and Retirement Savings Act.

We believe this excellent legislation will give savers comfort that they'll have access to their money in the event of an emergency and will remove a significant barrier for low- and middle-income workers to save for retirement in the first place. Most critically, the ability to access a small amount retirement savings without a tax penalty will help prevent many people from digging themselves into a financial hole due to an unplanned emergency expense.

The change made by your bill will be optional for plan sponsors and we expect it will garner strong support among employers because it builds on their already existing retirement savings plans rather than having to establish a new separate account structure. This will have the effect of making 401(k) and similar employer-sponsored retirement plans more attractive and promote wider participation from employees. We know many workers—notably, lower-wage workers—hesitate to join workplace retirement plans because they fear they won't be able to access their retirement savings during a short-term emergency. The ability to take emergency withdrawals would help reduce this reluctance and encourage workers to reconsider participation in their employer-sponsored retirement plans.

In a [recent Nationwide Retirement Institute survey](#) of advisors and financial professionals, we found that 9 in 10 (91%) would like to see an emergency savings provision of this nature added to the SECURE Act 2.0 legislation currently under consideration in Congress. Nationwide strongly supports the Enhancing Emergency & Retirement Savings Act and believes it aligns with our commitment to promoting financial security in the communities we serve and simpler solutions for financial professionals and their clients.

We stand ready to work with you to help quickly enact this legislation and make a secure retirement accessible to more American workers. Taking this sensible step will help make sure all Americans are able to deal with short-term emergencies while also saving for their retirement in the future.

Sincerely,

Eric Stevenson
President
Nationwide Retirement Solutions