

Statement
The Savings Coalition of America
In Support of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus

The Savings Coalition of America applauds Representatives Judy Biggert and Ruben Hinojosa for the creation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

Financial literacy is deficient across all generations and all socio-economic levels. To highlight what is being done to address this, The Savings Coalition sponsored financial literacy forums at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions last summer. We emphasized the need for financial literacy across various age groups by focusing on financial literacy programs that are offered for people from four different generations; the young, millennials, baby boomers and seniors.

Several surveys have identified the need to increase Americans awareness of financial issues. In a nationwide survey of 4,000 high school students, sponsored by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, that asked questions on income, spending, money management and saving, more than 65 percent of the students failed the exam. Another survey, sponsored by the Charles Schwab Foundation, found that just one in five teens realizes that if you take out a loan, you have to pay it back with interest. And one of every four teens believes that financial aid covers all college expenses.

America's savings rate remains in the low single digits. We are not a country that considers saving a core value. Planning for expenses like college tuition, retirement and long-term care expenses is something far too many Americans are not doing.

The Savings Coalition has long supported legislation that will encourage Americans to save for more financially secure futures. With these vehicles in place, making Americans more financially aware will give them the confidence to use them and make better financial decisions throughout their lives.

The Savings Coalition of America was established in 1991 to support incentives to increase personal savings in the United States. There are 75 member organizations of the Savings Coalition representing a wide variety of private interests including home-building, realtors, tangible assets, trust companies, health care industry, engineering, consumer, education and business groups, seniors groups, banking, insurance, securities and financial services.

The Savings Coalition strongly supports efforts to increase Americans awareness of financial and economic issues and looks forward to working with the Congressional Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus to accomplish that.

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