

Help Build Support in the U.S. House to Protect Pensions!

We need a solution to the crisis facing some multiemployer pension plans. A temporary committee in Congress came together last year to address the issue, but ultimately did not come to a resolution by their mandated deadline. As the new Congress unfolds, some of our key allies in the U.S. House of Representatives are now in positions to move proposals.

Our union supports legislation like the Butch Lewis Act (H.R. 397), a bill that would extend long-term loans to financially troubled plans. This legislation would help avoid pension cuts and provide certainty to pensioners. To build momentum for action in the House, we are asking Representatives to cosponsor the legislation.

Action Instructions:

Please Reach Out to Your Representative and Ask Him or Her to Cosponsor H.R. 397.

- Step 1:** Find out who your U.S. Representative is by going to www.house.gov (enter your zip code in the upper right corner).
- Step 2:** Look up the current cosponsors at <https://tinyurl.com/ButchLewis>. *Is your Representative on the list?*
- Step 3:** Dial our toll-free number to the U.S. House: **1-866-202-5409** (*your zip code will direct you to your Representative*)
- Step 4:** **If your Rep. is NOT a cosponsor:** Tell the staffer who answers who you are and where you live. Tell them you'd like your Representative to cosponsor the Butch Lewis Act, H.R. 397, in order to protect pensions. [Note: If you are impacted, make sure to share your story. That's the best way we can move lawmakers to action.]
- If your Rep. IS a cosponsor:** Simply tell them thanks!



Background: Thanks to a perfect storm of the Great Recession, changing industries, unbalanced trade policies, and other factors outside of our – or our plans' – control, some multiemployer pension plans are in distress. The benefits of current and future retirees are at risk. This issue extends far beyond our union. A million people are affected nationwide. The future solvency of a portion of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) that deals with multiemployer plans is in jeopardy. The PBGC is a government-run, privately-funded, insurance program to protect pension benefits. Without action, we risk the entire multiemployer system. Congress has acted before to shore up our nation's retirement programs. It's time to do it again.