IOWA VOTERS: CONGRESS, SOLVE THE MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLAN CRISIS

There are 79,625 multiemployer pension plan participants in Iowa, including more than 9,000 in the largest failing plan in the country, the Central States Pension Fund. Iowa will lose 1,200 jobs and $91.3 million in GDP if Central States folds, which is expected by 2025 by pre-pandemic estimates. Numerous plans in Iowa are expected to fail soon. A new poll shows the majority of Iowa voters demand action from Congress.

IOWA DEMANDS ACTION

A recent poll commissioned by the Retirement Security Coalition found broad concerns about retirement security and support for protecting essential blue-collar workers and seniors. Despite 95% of those polled not belonging to a multiemployer plan themselves, in Iowa:

- 67% of Iowa voters believe Congress must act now to assure multiemployer pension plans survive.
- 69% Agree multiemployer pension plans are in crisis.
- 62% Agree the multiemployer pension situation has been worsened by COVID-19.
- 76% Agree having a financially secure retirement is a concern.
- 64% Agree we need a “shared solution” to create stability and safeguard against risks.
- 63% Agree they are more likely to vote for a U.S. Senator who prioritizes addressing multiemployer pensions. Across all states polled, 73% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans agree.

THE PROBLEM

Ten million blue-collar workers, essential workers, and retirees throughout the country planned their retirements around pension benefits that were earned over decades of hard work. Today, thousands nationwide face severe benefit cuts in plans that failed while following federal guidelines. To protect Americans with multiemployer pensions and stop the loss of more than 55,000 jobs and $5 billion in GDP by 2025, Americans are demanding action from Congress.

THE SOLUTION

The time for bipartisan, bicameral congressional action on a shared solution to the multiemployer pension crisis is now. The message is loud and clear – Americans in both parties want a congressional solution to the pension crisis.