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Definition of the Term ‘Fiduciary’; Conflict of Interest Rule—Retirement Investment Advice; Notice of proposed rulemaking and withdrawal of previous proposed rule.

Comment On: EBSA-2010-0050-0204

Definition of the Term Fiduciary; Conflict of Interest Rule- Retirement Investment Advice

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

I applaud efforts to reduce fees and conflicts of interest between brokers and investors, but am gravely concerned with one particular aspect of this rule. As it now stands and is written, the rule will restrict the trading of options in IRA accounts and I believe this is inappropriate and would actually increase risk to the investor who is properly versed in options trading.

I sell covered calls in IRA accounts for increased income and capital gains. More importantly, I am able to use option trading to create portfolio protection within my IRA. I do not use options to increase leverage in a misguided way so that I can make 'big bets' against my portfolio. I have taken an inordinate amount of time to learn proper options trading in such a way that actually reduces to my portfolio as I execute trades only against stocks that I am ready and prepared to fully own should shares be assigned to me. This has increased my portfolio value, thereby reducing the burden on the US Government for bearing the full value of my cost of living in my retirement years.

If properly executed, option trading actually reduce risk. If anything, people should be better educated on how to properly execute option trading in lieu of restricting the trading of options in IRA accounts. This rule would prevent the typical brokerage from allowing investors to trade options or even provide options education on its website. That goes contrary to what actually needs to take place - more education on the topic needs to happen, not less.

Trading options in a retirement account is a right all investors should have. If the government truly desires for individuals to take more ownership of their own retirement accounts, then increasing the ways to do that needs to be promoted instead of restricting rights.

Thank you.