SPARK INSTITUTE
SHAPING AMERICA'S RETIREMENT

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Rick Allen
Chairman HELP Subcommittee
462 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member HELP Subcommittee
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: House Education and Workforce Committee HELP Subcommittee Hearing: *Restoring Trust: Enhancing Transparency and Oversight at EBSA*

Dear Chairman Allen and Ranking Member DeSaulnier:

On behalf of the SPARK Institute, I would like to thank you for holding a hearing about the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). The hearing offers an important opportunity to review how EBSA has operated and consider important legislative proposals to ensure EBSA remains a trusted regulator of our nation's retirement plans and the millions of retirement savers they serve.

The SPARK Institute believes that retirement security is the shared responsibly of individuals, employers, government, and the providers, consultants, and advisors who serve them. We represent the interests of a broad-based cross section of retirement plan service providers and collectively our members serve more than 110 million employer-sponsored plan participants.

SPARK is supportive of two measure that we understand the HELP Subcommittee will be formally considering. Specifically, SPARK supports and endorses the *EBSA Investigations Transparency Act*, H.R. 2869, to require the Department of Labor to report to Congress on its ongoing enforcement actions and investigations. For too long, EBSA investigations have continued for year after year without end. SPARK thanks Representative Lisa McClain for introducing this common-sense bill to provide much needed transparency to these ongoing investigations.

Additionally, SPARK supports and endorses the *Balance the Scales Act*, H.R. 2958, to require transparency about the troubling recent revelations of information sharing by EBSA with private plaintiff's attorneys. SPARK thanks Representative Michael Rulli for introducing this important measure to require reporting to Congress about information sharing with plaintiff's attorneys and hopefully ensure they do not occur again in the future.

SPARK appreciate your continued interest enhancing retirement security for all Americans. Going forward, we also look forward to working with you to enact broad litigation reform measures to ensure that the growing wave of litigation against retirement plan sponsors and services providers does not reverse the great progress we have made in our voluntary defined contribution system to help retirement plan participants achieve a financially secure retirement.

Sincerely,



Tim Rouse
Executive Director
The SPARK Institute, Inc.

CC: Chairman Tim Walberg; Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott; Representative Lisa McClain; Representative Michael Rulli