

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Multiemployer Pension Legislative Activity

Following passage of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) in the Cromnibus of 2014, Kaptur immediately set to work to learn MPRA's impact on retirees and correct the harm. In this review, the Keep Our Pension Promises Act (KOPPA) was developed; Senator Bernie Sanders' office was the Senate lead on companion legislation.

Keep Our Pension Promises Act- Protects retirees by restoring the ERISA's anti-cutback rule; strengthens multiemployer pension plans, including "orphaned" participants; provides additional funding by closing tax loopholes the wealthy use to accumulate expensive artwork and tax-advantaged savings, to protect retirees and the PBGC; ensures pension obligations are prioritized during bankruptcies

- **HR 2844** in the 114th, 55 cosponsors; **HR 2412** in the 115th, 29 cosponsors to date

Kaptur & James Hoffa joint Op-Ed: originally published October 4, 2015, by *The Plain Dealer* (https://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/10/dont_break_faith_with_workers.html)

Kaptur organized a series of bipartisan member meetings in 2015-2016, including with:

- **Internal member discussions** on multiemployer issue
- Staff briefing on multiemployer pension 101 (November 2015)
- **Ken Feinberg**, Treasury Dept. Special Master for MPRA Office (December 2015)
- **Tom Nyhan**, Central States Executive Director (March 2016)
 - *Kaptur office secured congressional district/state impact breakdown sheets for every Congressional elected official*
- **Phyllis Borzi**, DOL Assistant Secretary for Employee Benefits Security Administration (March 2016)

In June 2016, **Kaptur lead request to Government Accountability Office** (Brown lead Senate request) for a review internal decision-making of the Central States Pension Fund.

- July 2016, GAO accepted request, combined House & Senate request
- GAO provided staff periodic updates on the report's progress, Aug 2016-Dec 2017.
- Report delayed upon discovery of additional materials, anticipated in winter 2018.

Kaptur lead series of letters emphasizing need to protect retirees from harmful cuts proposed by MPRA and the need for true multiemployer pension reform to help retirees. [All Letters on file with Kaptur office. Ms. Kaptur joined other letters; this list represents those she led.]

- Letter to SM Feinberg commenting on CSPF MPRA application (December 2017)
- Letter to ED Tom Nyhan requesting documents and a member meeting (January 2016)
- Letter to Secretary Jack Lew regarding Iron Worker Local 17 MPRA (July 2016)
- Letter to House Leadership opposing Chairman Kline's "composite plan" inclusion in end of year spending bill (December 2016)
- Letter to President Donald Trump addressing need for action on multiemployer pension crisis (March 2017)