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Everyone deserves a secure retirement.

In the past 30 years, as companies have cut back pension, health-care, bonuses, and benefits in the name of cost savings, and the Republicans continuously attempt to curtail all relief for workers struggling to make ends meet, please consider that only our government, not subject to the fallacies of "capitalism", can mediate and moderate the organization of fair and uniform retirement benefits for our citizens.

The 401(k) and IRA programs do not benefit the contributing workers, but really benefit the financial companies who take the money, churn it through pointless investments to rake in their commissions, and the result is that I have barely more today than that I have contributed!!!

The stock market is only evidence of the optimism of investors -- it has no bearing whatsoever on the actual performance of the companies!! Look at NASDAQ and NYSE -- as optimism persists, some buy to pay the sellers their profits, only to in Ponzi-scheme fashion be paid in the future if there are more optimists to buy -- if the optimism fails, the whole system crashes. What remains is a cyclical, slow meandering upward -- not enough to generate adequate retirement benefits, but certainly enough to fund the mountainous commissions and bonuses of the investment finance industry.

Please consider state funding of a universal retirement pool -- this could be the best, if not the last, possible solution to providing reasonable (and means-tested!!) retirement benefits to today's working class.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
james C sharp III

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