

For Immediate Release

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**AMERICANS FOR SECURE RETIREMENT APPLAUDS
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN TO STRENGTHEN RETIREMENT
FOR MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS**

WASHINGTON, DC – Americans for Secure Retirement (ASR), a retirement issues advocacy coalition, released the following statement in response to President Obama's announced initiatives to help middle income Americans achieve a financially secure retirement. This statement can be attributed to ASR's Chairman, Thomas Bartell.

"We applaud the initiatives proposed by the Obama Administration to ease the burden on middle income Americans by helping them achieve a financially secure retirement. Over the last two years, we have all witnessed the dramatic and immediate effect a downturn in the economy can have on middle income retirees and near retirees.

"ASR is especially encouraged by the Administration's stated commitment to increasing the availability of guaranteed lifetime income through annuities. A steady stream of income in retirement reduces the risks that retirees will outlive their savings or face significant reductions to their standard of living. An ASR commissioned study conducted by Ernst & Young last year revealed the profound risks that a majority of Americans face in outliving their retirement savings and how guaranteed lifetime income in retirement dramatically improves the situation (<http://tinyurl.com/yaxkjpgm>). The past two years have been incredibly challenging for retirees and those about to retire as the value of retirement assets have eroded due to the financial downturn. Now is the time for policy changes that not only promote retirement savings, but also help Americans better manage those savings to last a lifetime."

About ASR

Americans for Secure Retirement is a broad-based coalition of more than 70 organizations and affiliates committed to raising awareness of the retirement problem and

working with policy makers to find solutions that will help people have greater financial control over their retirement. Our members are a diverse group representing women, minorities, farmers, small business owners and the life insurance industry. You can learn more about ASR at www.paycheckforlife.org.

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