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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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### Statement Of Gwen Moore On Multi-Employer Pension Reform

I am sorry that I could not be here in person, but I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my thoughts regarding the inclusion of multi-employer pension reform in the so-called CROMnibus. Although, it may be more accurate to say how *partial* multi-employer pensions reform was included.

As you know, I voted against H.R. 3, which is commonly and derisively called the CROMnibus bill. My opposition to the legislation was largely predicated on the inclusion of the multi-employer pension changes.

My opposition to the changes can be summed up this way: I refuse to force beneficiaries to be singled out as the first to sacrifice in the reform. The men and women that make up the beneficiaries negotiated those benefits as deferred compensation and have worked for and earned those benefits. If you are going to take the extraordinary measure to change long-standing ERISA laws on benefit cuts, then all the reforms need be made at once so that everyone is putting skin in the game simultaneously.

I was lobbied by Rep. Miller, Labor Secretary Perez, and White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough to support the changes. They all said that this is just the first part of a more complete reform package. I have tremendous respect for them all and trust that they have every intention of making good on their word, but why rush through cuts to benefits absent the rest of these other promised reforms? I expect that everyone, not just workers, are part of the tough choices that the situation requires?

The simple truth is that there was no absolute immediacy to include the changes to the CROMnibus, which was a last-minute bill to fund the government before it shut down. There is a minority of plans that are in trouble, but they will not be insolvent until 2032. Rushing through changes to worker pension protections in a spending bill is an absolutely awful precedent.

Thank you and I appreciate this opportunity to provide you with my thinking on this extremely important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Moore".

Gwen Moore