

# 2018 Advocacy Highlights

In 2018 we advocated on the following issues:

## **Engaging Proactively with Policymakers to Promote a Best Interest Standard of Care that Ensures Affordable Access to Financial Guidance and Advice**

In 2018 LPL submitted several comment letters to the SEC, one in [February](#), [August](#) and most recently on [December 18](#). In these letters, our views on the standard of conduct for advisory and brokerage accounts were expressed. We also submitted a letter to the [Maryland Senate Finance Committee](#) providing feedback on the proposed Financial Consumer Protection Act of 2018.

## **Preserving and Enhancing Incentives for Retirement Savings**

With retirement security becoming an increasing concern for Americans, LPL is advocating to preserve retirement savings options. Thanks to the help of our advisors we published two white papers, one on [Rothification](#) and the other on [Reducing Complexity in Retirement Plans](#). Both of these were presented to Congressional members and Congressional staff to showcase the impact of policy changes.

## **Advocating for Thoughtful Policies to Promote Senior Investor Protection**

LPL advocated for the passage of the Senior Safe Act since the bill's introduction. The bill was finally passed as part of larger package with bi-partisan support. The legislation enables financial advisors once they receive the appropriate training to go to adult protective services if they fear a client is being financially abused. Prior to the bill's passage, certain privacy laws prevented an advisor from taking such action. [Read more.](#)

## **Other issues:**

**Pass-Through.** Certain "services" are prevented from taking advantage of the 20% pass-through deduction, which was included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed late last year, unless they fall within 157,000 (single); 315,000 (married filing jointly). Financial advisors currently are included in this cap. LPL Financial is working with Congress and the Administration to exempt independent contractor financial advisors from the cap. Please see our [comment letter](#) submitted on October 1, 2018.

**Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act (RESA).** There are several good provisions in this bipartisan bill. We have been focused on a provision that would increase tax incentives for small businesses to offer a retirement plans. We are hopeful that this bill can be attached to an end of year spending bill. If it doesn't pass before the end of the year, it will most likely be reintroduced early next Congress. This bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with bipartisan support last Congress.

## **Support of FINRA Rule 18-08**

LPL is doing its part to show support for FINRA Rule 18-08. The proposed rule would govern outside business activities (OBAs) and private securities transactions. In this article, we provide a status update on the rule and show how we're advocating on your behalf. [Read more](#)