

July 20, 2023

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the managers and supervisors serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I urge you to oppose Amendment 523 offered by Sen. Rubio to the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 2226) that would restrict Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) investments and undermine its system.

While FMA appreciates the assumed intent of prohibiting TSP investment in a “country or security of concern,” there is already a structure in place that considers investments in foreign countries. The Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) at the United States Treasury is in place and established to protect our country’s national security interests.

Further, if the goal is to send a message to China, the amendment falls flat. If the investment in funds that include China is a bad idea, all U.S. investors, including 401(k) and IRA plan participants, should be prohibited from participating. Instead, the amendment singles out a small population of Americans – the TSP accounts for *less than one percent of all investment assets* in the U.S. All other major 401(k) type plans invest in international markets – including China – including the Florida Retirement System and many other state pension plans. Federal employees have limited options with their investments and shouldn’t be further limited in ways their neighbors are not.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) is charged to act “solely in the interest of TSP participants and beneficiaries,” and offering an International Fund, like all other plans, falls squarely in that category. This amendment prevents FRTIB from doing its job to serve the best interests of federal employees, and strikes at the very purpose of the TSP. I respectfully urge you to oppose it when it is considered by the Senate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA’s Government Affairs Director Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org.

Sincerely,



Craig Carter
National President