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Mar. 30, 2015

The nation's largest society of professional accountants is telling Congress that tax reform isn't just something to think about, it's something needed soon.

On Thursday last week, the American Institute of CPAs submitted 8 recommendations to the Senate Committee on Finance Tax Reform Working Group on Savings and Investment that would simplify employer-sponsored retirement plans and individual retirement accounts.

In the letter to the working group, Troy Lewis, CPA, CGMA, chair of the AICPA Tax Executive Committee, wrote, "Because qualified retirement plans are such a large source of retirement savings for many Americans, it is important that the tax rules governing the plans are as simple as possible."

Lewis noted that the Internal Revenue Code "provides for more than a dozen taxfavored employer-sponsored retirement planning vehicles, each subject to different rules pertaining to plan documents, eligibility, contribution limits, tax treatment of contributions and distributions, availability of loans, portability, nondiscrimination, reporting and disclosure."

The eight recommendations are:

- Create a uniform employee contributory deferral plan;
- Eliminate certain nondiscrimination tests on employee pre-tax and Roth deferrals for 401(k) plans and matching contributions;
- Eliminate the top-heavy rules;
- Create a uniform rule regarding the determination of basis in distributions;
- Create a uniform attribution rule;

• Create a uniform definition of owners;

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suggestions are designed to encourage the operation of qualified retirement plans by small business, expanding retirement savings for all employees."

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