Extent

112 folders, approximately 6,697 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material dealing with retirement plans and pensions. It contains correspondence, memoranda, drafts, newspaper clippings, background materials, press releases, talking points, and lists. There are two groups of letters from President Clinton to members of the Senate urging them to support the “ERISA Enforcement Improvement Act” designed to protect the 401(k) plans of American workers and thanking them for backing legislation intended to expand the IRA so that it could be used for education costs without penalty. Records from the Automated Records Management System and the Tape Restoration Project include emails addressing the following topics: pension reform, pension protection, 401(k) plans, IRAs, and the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC).

Scope and Content Note

The materials in 2014-0226-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA request 2014-0226-F contains records dealing with improvements and developments in 401(k) plans, IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts), and defined contribution retirement pensions that occurred during the Clinton Administration. Generally speaking, all of these features were expanded by President Clinton and received much in the way of favorable legislation. Specifically more people were afforded the opportunity for saving through the IRA in the Middle Class Bill of Rights in 1995 and the Retirement Savings and Security Act in 1996. The Savings and Investment Incentive Act of 1997 provided for further expansion of the IRA and allowed additional American workers the chance to set aside funds for retirement. During Clinton’s term in office 401(k) plans took off, with a considerably larger portion of the population seeing the need for pension coverage. Attractive provisions

included the ability of employers to set up 401(k) plans in such a manner that new employees were automatically enrolled unless they chose to opt out and the reduction of the vesting period for employer 401(k) plans from five years to three. The development of simplified 401(k) plans acted as an incentive for small businesses to get involved in the retirement planning process. In the White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Files-General, there can be found correspondence, memoranda, drafts, speeches, and newspaper clippings focusing on the response of President Clinton to entreaties, queries, and developments involving 401(k) plans, IRAs, and pensions in general. One of his most frequent correspondents, the Savings Coalition of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C., emphasized the need for the average worker to benefit from any proposed legislation dealing with retirement savings plans. Clinton sent out a letter to 28 members of Congress urging them to support a bill providing for stiffer penalties for unscrupulous employers who misused 401(k) investments. Memos outline options for the President in the case of Senator Paul Coverdell's education IRA proposal. The administration took a dim view of the bill, saying more should be done in the area of school construction and accusing Republicans of advocating a voucher plan that favored the rich and would divert much needed resources away from public schools. The White House Staff and Office Files of Domestic Policy Council Advisor Michael Schmidt contain memoranda, background materials, and press releases addressing Clinton's Middle Class Bill of Rights and its impact on American working families. Expansion of the IRA would, in the words of the actual proposal, "help working Americans save for their future, give Americans more ways to save, afford tax relief to the middle class, and increase national savings." According to these records, the changes in the IRA under discussion would take effect on January 1, 1996. The files of Joanna Slaney in Legislative Affairs are composed of transcripts, reports, emails, correspondence, Senate roll call votes, papers, articles, notes, and summaries largely relating to S.1134, better known as the Affordable Education Act of 1999. While most sections of the bill had bipartisan support, Coverdell's IRA measure, also referred to as ESA's (education savings accounts), met with fierce Democratic opposition in Congress and the threat of a veto by President Clinton. Records here outline the battle between the two parties, with proposed amendments by both sides listed and discussed in some depth. There is also a document entitled "Statement of Administration Policy – S.1134 – Affordable Education Act". The Clinton Administration feared that this law would "reward many families, particularly those with substantial incomes, for what they may already do." The files of National

Economic Council Advisor Bob Shireman contain information about Senator Coverdell's voucher amendment that President Clinton did not support. Taking the form of memoranda, Senate voting records, drafts of bills, charts, graphs, talking points, schedule requests, and press releases, they serve to document the manner in which the Clinton Administration responded to this piece of legislation championed by Republicans. The files of Maria Echaveste in the Office of Public Liaison contain a number of publications concerning a campaign to abolish the IRS code and newspaper and magazine articles about taxation. Specific items of interest would include a list of organizations belonging to the Savings Coalition of America, a paper outlining the reasoning whereby IRAs "should be universally available to all Americans," and a folder loaded with records on 401 (kids), regarded by a staffer from the Office of the Vice President as "a public private initiative" intended to help kids in disadvantaged communities get a head start on financial planning and the promotion of good savings habits by acquiring the necessary math skills at an early age. Children in grades five through eight would be the primary targets of this group. The files of Peter O'Keefe in the Office of Public Liaison center on a meeting at the White House involving members of the Savings Coalition of America and Clinton Administration officials. Lists, correspondence, fact sheets, issue briefs, graphs, and charts detail all the particulars of the conference, which occurred in July 1997. A discussion of the advantages of expanding the IRA ensued between the two bodies, with specific attention being paid to the needs of the Baby Boomers and their rapidly approaching retirement years. Records from the Automated Records Management System and the Tape Restoration Project consist of emailed correspondence concerning the following topics: Pension Reform, Pension Protection, 401 (k), IRA, and the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). Email to and from Ellen Seidman specifically invoked the terms, 401(k) or IRA. Seidman served as the Special Assistant for Economic Policy from 1993 to 1997. A majority of the email collection consists of records concerning the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). According to the PBGC website, "[The] PBGC is a federal agency created by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to protect pension benefits in private-sector defined benefit plans - the kind that typically pay a set monthly amount at retirement. PBGC is headed by a Director who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Board of Directors consists of the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce and Treasury, with the Secretary of Labor as Chair. The Corporation is aided by a seven-member Advisory Committee appointed by the President of the United States to represent the interests of labor, employers, and the

general public. ERISA outlines several specific responsibilities for PBGC's Advisory Committee, including advising on policies and procedures for PBGC's investments, the trusteeship of terminated plans, and on other matters as determined by PBGC." Email concerning the PBGC consists of email related to the appointment of members, pension related meetings and discussions. The PBGC contributed to discussions concerning unfunded liabilities for the District of Columbia's police, firefighter's and teacher's retirement programs. Further, the PBGC contributed to discussions concerning, SIMPLE and SAFE contribution plans, Pension Portability, Pension Simplification, and the "Employee's right-to-know."

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alpha Project; Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM (OP); Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files; Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email], and Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. In addition, there are WHORM, WHORM Counsel, WHORM (CL), WHORM (OP), WHORM (Too Late), WHORM (Various Offices), and WHORM (Alpha Project) series. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email

records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS database is comprised of six sub-series of email records called "buckets." The buckets generally represent a specific White House office. The buckets are titled: NPR for National Performance Review, OPD for Office of Policy Development, POTUS for President of the United States, WHO for White House Office, CEA for Council of Economic Advisers, and Default for emails not associated with an office. The OPD bucket contains email created or received by an individual with an Office of Policy Development (OPD) White House user account. The WHO bucket contains email created or received by individual with an Executive Office of the President White House user account not identified as CEA, NPR, or OPD. The CEA bucket contains email created or received by an individual with a Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) White House user account. The Default bucket contains email created or received by unknown or un-recognized email accounts. Email found within the Default bucket often includes email created or received by offices or individuals outside the Executive Office of the President. ARMS emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database consisting of restored emails from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) from July 1994 through June of 2000. The TRP is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential record email. The TRP database is comprised of the same six sub-series of email as in ARMS. TRP emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date. FOIA 2014-0226-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: [BE006] [Small Business] [ED] [Education] [FI002] [Banks – Banking] [FI003] [Bonds – Stocks – Investments] [FI004] [Budget – Appropriations] [FI006] [Funds – Accounts] [FI010] [Taxation] [HE] [Health] [IS] [Insurance] [IS001] [Accident – Hospital – Medical – Health – Medicare – Unemployment] [LA007] [Pensions – Retirement] [ND007-05] [Pay – Allowances – Pensions] [PU001-07] [Clippings to the President] [SP400] [Radio Addresses] [WE007] [Social Security]

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore

records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2016. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2016-06-13

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2014-0226-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Alpha Project

Case Number/Name/Folder Title
181475 /Hamor, Kathy / [Folder #1] [Hamor, Kathy – IRA [Individual Retirement Account] –
March 18, 1996]
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File
Category Case Number
BE006 166118
ED 231117
252026SS
252473SS
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File (continued)
Category Case Number
263942
FG001-07 417041 [Welfare to Work Event, 08/03/1999]
FI002 003548
033651SS
FI003 227985
228703
FI004 051148
149876
151873
318275
FI006 145635
FI010 091030
206933
212406
212410
HE 078385
IS 158533
IS001 097449
LA007 147671SS
298936
ND007-05 253417SS
PU001-07 156573SS
177149SS
244800SS

SP400 432498
WE007 309045
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: (OP)
255066 [Wray, David L.] [OA/ID 10889]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Council of Economic Advisors
Baily, Martin
PSCA [Profit Sharing/401(k) Council of America] [OA/ID 7793]
Edlin, Aaron
Education IRA [Individual Retirement Account] Wall St. Journal, 9/26/97 –
[Notes on Telecom Meeting, 9/29/97] [OA/ID 24176]
Counsel’s Office
Wallman, Kathleen
401(k) Amnesty Proposal [OA/ID 7443]
Domestic Policy Council
Little, Bethany
Education IRAs [Individual Retirement Accounts] [OA/ID 103832]
Liu, Eric
Education – Education Savings Accounts [OA/ID 103889]
Education – IRAs [Individual Retirement Accounts] [OA/ID 103889]
Schmidt, Michael
IRA [Individual Retirement Account] – Borrowing for Education Issue [OA/ID 103980]
Middle Class Bill of Rights – Talking Points [OA/ID 103980]
Health Care Task Force
Edelstein, Steven
Medical IRAs [Individual Retirement Accounts] [OA/ID 3680]
Legislative Affairs
Slaney, Joanna
Coverdell/ESAs [Education Savings Accounts] [1] [OA/ID 21932]
Coverdell/ESAs [Education Savings Accounts] [2] [OA/ID 21932]
Box 2
National Economic Council
Dorval, Chris
401(k) [OA/ID 8942]
Kellogg, Clifton
IRA [Individual Retirement Account] Refund [OA/ID 20816]

Seidman, Ellen
Pensions 1996 Legislation: 401(k)/Enf. [Enforcement] [OA/ID 10392]
Shireman, Bob
Coverdell Amendment: Coverdell Education IRA [Individual Retirement Account] [OA/ID 13223]
Coverdell Amendment: [Loose Information] [1] [OA/ID 13223]
Coverdell Amendment: [Loose Information] [2] [OA/ID 13223]
Coverdell Amendment: [Loose Information] [3] [OA/ID 13223]
Coverdell Amendment: [Loose Information] [4] [OA/ID 13223]
Coverdell Amendment: [Loose Information] [5] [OA/ID 13223]
Subject Files
5/99 Memos to GS [Gene Sperling] – 401(k) & USAs [Universal Savings Accounts] [OA/ID 17672]
Public Liaison
Echaveste, Maria
7/9/[97] – 401 Kids [OA/ID 11657]
7/24/[97] – IRA [Individual Retirement Account]/Savings Coalition [OA/ID 11491]
Kids (401): [Campaign to Abolish the IRS Code] [1] [OA/ID 11656]
Kids (401): [Campaign to Abolish the IRS Code] [2] [OA/ID 11656]
Kids (401): [Campaign to Abolish the IRS Code] [3] [OA/ID 11656]
Kids (401): Employee Financial Education & Counseling Services – Ernst & Young, LLP [Limited Liability Partnership] [OA/ID 11656]
Lynch, Victoria
401 (Kids) [OA/ID 14156]
Mohile, Deborah
Coverdell – Education IRAs [Individual Retirement Accounts] [OA/ID 16946]
O’Keefe, Peter
Child 401(k) Meeting, 7/28/97 [OA/ID 18253]
IRA [Individual Retirement Account] – ’97 Expanded [1] [OA/ID 18254]
IRA [Individual Retirement Account] – ’97 Expanded [2] [OA/ID 18254]
Subject Files
(President’s) Middle Class Bill of Rights [OA/ID 14432]
Savers Summit: The Savings Coalition of America [OA/ID 14430]
Women’s Initiative and Outreach
General Files
S. 287 – Homemaker IRA [Individual Retirement Account] Deduction Legislation

(1996)
[OA/ID 11061]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files – CF
Counsel's Office
Neuwirth, Stephen
401(k) [OA/ID CF 378]
Box 3
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Record Management System [Email]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Pension Reform]
[11/15/1993 – 06/04/1998]
[01/19/1999 – 08/05/1999]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Pension Reform]
[05/18/1993 – 01/09/2001]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Pension Protection]
[04/11/1996 – 02/02/1999]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
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[03/15/1996 – 01/18/2000]
CEA [OA/ID 950000]
[Pension Protection or Pension Reform]
[10/22/1996 – 09/14/2000]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[To Seidman, 401K, IRA]
[05/23/1995 – 10/27/1997]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
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[01/10/1994 – 09/20/1996]
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[03/28/1995 – 11/05/1996]
[09/06/1996 – 03/27/1997]

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Default [OA/ID 1100000]
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[04/19/1996 – 12/02/2000]
Box 9
Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Pension Reform]
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WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[PBGC]
[05/16/1997 – 11/23/1999]
CEA [OA/ID 950000]
[PBGC]
[03/20/1999 – 08/04/1999]

Content Available Online