



May 16, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richie Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Smith, Chair Crapo, Ranking Member Neal, and Ranking Member Wyden:

CFP Board is a nonprofit, professional certifying and standards-setting body for financial planners that has been committed to the public interest for nearly 50 years. Our CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification program rests on both competency and ethics standards and is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Each CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional makes a voluntary commitment to CFP Board to abide by CFP Board's [Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct](#), the cornerstone of which is the requirement to act as a fiduciary, and therefore, act in the best interests of the client at all times when providing financial advice. Today, there are more than 104,000 CFP® professionals (or more than one-third of all retail financial professionals).

We thank the House Ways and Means Committee for releasing the comprehensive reconciliation package, which impacts not only the CFP® professionals helping individuals achieve their American dream, but also the millions of households they advise.

We applaud the inclusion of an expansion of 529 accounts in Section 110111 to allow beneficiaries to use those savings for fees and expenses required to obtain or maintain recognized postsecondary credentials, including professional certification like the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification. This provision would transform 529s from college savings plans to career savings plans, benefiting Americans across all educational backgrounds, skill levels, and age groups. Additionally, it would provide valuable tax-advantaged resources for families, students, and workers, with or without a college degree, who pursue career growth, mid-career changes, or alternate pathways. We are also grateful for the preservation of the current tax-deferred treatment of retirement savings, which is critical to incentivizing workers to save more for their future.

We also wish to express our concerns regarding Section 112025, which would amend IRC sections 512 and 513 to treat trademark licensing revenue as unrelated business taxable income. We are troubled by this provision, which could have unintended consequences for professional certification bodies, including CFP Board. The licensing of the CFP® trademark to CFP® professionals to use as a professional certification mark is integral to maintaining high standards in the financial planning profession. When a professional who we certify uses the CFP® mark, the public can be assured that the professional has met CFP Board's competency and ethics requirements. This is not a commercial use of the brand but instead is a source identifier of the person providing financial planning services to the public. Taxation of this income as unrelated business income would divert resources away from our efforts to promote competency and ethics standards that protect consumers and strengthen the financial well-being of American families, directly undermining our mission.

CFP Board is also concerned with the extension of the limitation on the casualty and loss deduction in Section 110009 of the bill, which allows the IRS to continue to tax victims of the increasingly rampant financial fraud and scams that are preying on our nation's seniors and vulnerable adults. Rather than extending this limitation, which would further harm victims of financial fraud and scams, we are urging Congress to restore the Casualty and Theft Loss Deduction to its foundational principles in the federal tax code, as they existed from 1913 to 2017, such as that proposed in the bipartisan Tax Relief for Victims of Crimes, Scams, and Disasters Act introduced by U.S. Senators Ashley Moody (R-FL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Peter Welch (D-VT), and U.S. Representatives Greg Steube (R-FL) and Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and endorsed by CFP Board. According to the FBI's 2024 Internet Crime Center report, American seniors reported over \$4.8 billion in losses, a 43% increase from 2023 and a nearly 2,000% increase since 2014. These scams are growing in size and sophistication and often originate from foreign-based criminal networks. Further, these dollars were otherwise meant to be used for retirement, reinvested back into the local community, or for other important financial goals. Instead, they are lost to bad actors.

Lastly, we thank you for extending and enhancing the qualified business income deduction in Section 110005, which will benefit many CFP® professionals who are themselves entrepreneurs and small business owners. In addition to being drivers of the economy, CFP® professionals are a vital solution to the retirement savings crisis that the United States currently faces. They act as local providers of financial advice, working with retail investors to build savings and prepare for retirement. Many of those eligible to take advantage of the deduction have reported using the tax savings to reinvest in their businesses by hiring more employees, providing additional benefits to workers, and upgrading technology to better serve clients.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues, please contact me at 202-379-2240 or by email at ekoepfel@cfpboard.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Koepfel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin Koepfel
Managing Director, Government Relations & Public Policy Counsel