July 11, 2005

Dear Colleague:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, we are pleased to bring to your attention a briefing by Workplace Flexibility 2010 (WF 2010) on What an Aging Workforce Can Teach Us About Workplace Flexibility, to be held in S-207 of the Capitol on Monday, July 18th from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The briefing will highlight the role of flexible workplaces in responding to the challenges of an aging workforce. Attendees of the event will include Congressional staff and outside organizations, such as seniors’ groups and human resource associations.

WF 2010 is a public policy initiative at Georgetown University Law Center focused on the development of a comprehensive national policy on workplace flexibility at the federal, state and local levels. For this briefing, WF 2010 has convened a panel of experts who have been studying the economic, demographic and social trends that will drive policy discussions in this arena for years to come. Panelists include:

Chai Feldblum, JD (Moderator)  
Workplace Flexibility 2010  
Georgetown University Law Center

Kathleen Christensen, PhD  
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Robert Hutchens, PhD  
School of Industrial and Labor Relations  
Cornell University

Mick Smyer, PhD  
and

Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes, PhD  
Sloan Center on Older Workers  
& Workplace Flexibility  
Boston College

Robert Hudson, PhD  
Boston University

By 2030, the share of the population over age 65 will increase from about 12 percent to almost 20 percent. This demographic wave requires us to rethink the nature of aging, working, and retirement. Today, only 13 percent of the population over age 65 participate in the workforce, but according to a recent survey by AARP, 80 percent of baby boomers expect to work past traditional retirement age. Meeting both the potential and challenges posed by our aging society is important for seniors, businesses and the economy.
We hope that a member of your staff will be able to participate in this important discussion. Please call Kara Getz (224-2444) or Topher Spiro (224-7118) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gordon H. Smith
Chairman

Herb Kohl
Ranking Member