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To: Lorraine D. Hunt OIRA ECON GUIDE/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Comments on the Draft Guidelines

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April 4, 2003

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Lorraine Hunt
Office of Management and Budget, NEOB
Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Hunt:

In suggesting an official policy statement to the effect that a senior citizen's life is worth 63% of a "younger" person, you and others who want to promulgate such a perfidious notion show yourselves to be mean-spirited people who know the price of everything but the value of nothing. Why not step outside the hermetically sealed Beltway atmosphere and breathe the air that the rest of the country enjoys. Press the flesh and test the intellects and "get-up-and-go" capacity of seniors anywhere in America. Then see how your numerical analysis holds up. As Benjamin Disraeli once said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics." Or, you could try the common-sense truth: if you're being paid to "quantify" the value of one human being's life vis a vis another's, you've got way too much time on your hands and are being overpaid a salary that would be much better spent on seniors. Think about it.

Sincerely,

Seth Kaplan