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March 14, 2013

Jeffrey Zients
Deputy Director for Management
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 251
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Deputy Director Zients,

I am writing regarding the upcoming tax season and the growing incidents of identity theft-based tax refund fraud. During these difficult times of administering large sequester cuts for executive agencies, I urge you to allocate the financial resources needed for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to effectively identify and track down identity theft-based tax refund fraud.

As you are aware, the IRS has estimated that approximately 650,000 incidents of identity theft impacting tax administration occurred in 2012. This is more than double the number of incidents from 2011. In the past year, more than 33,000 residents in my State of Florida have claimed identity theft. For example, a recent article in the Florida Sun Sentinel describes an incident in which a woman stole more than \$3 million by illegally filing fraudulent income tax returns.¹ Thankfully, this individual was caught and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

I understand that you, the Office of Management and Budget staff, and the executive agencies are currently operating in a tremendously difficult financial situation implementing the sequester. I also am well aware that the sequester is forcing large cuts in critical programs that are and will be impacting many people around the country. However, providing the IRS with the necessary tools and resources to identify and track down individuals conducting identity theft-based tax refund fraud will ensure that funds from the Federal Government do not end up in the hands of thieves.

¹ See Paula McMahon, *ID Thieves Get Prison Time*, Sun Sentinel, Jan. 15, 2013, at 1B.

Deputy Director for Management Zients

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue and to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Deutch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Deutch" clearly distinguishable.

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress