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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
27TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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PLEASE RESPOND TO:
2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0918
(202) 225-3931
FAX: (202) 225-5620
<http://www.house.gov/ros-lehtinen>

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4960 SW 72 AVENUE
SUITE 208
MIAMI, FL 33155
(305) 668-2285
FAX: (305) 668-5970

Mr. Stephen T. Miller
Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing to ask what steps have been taken by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to combat the increased problem of identity theft tax fraud which has harmed many of my constituents, especially senior citizens.

As I am sure you are aware, South Florida is the epicenter for such identity theft. Recent reports indicate that the U.S. Treasury is losing billions of dollars each year to identity thieves in addition to the havoc which is being wreaked upon innocent taxpayers.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) last November found that tax related identity theft has mushroomed from less than 50,000 in 2008 to over 640,000 in 2012. Moreover, Florida state offices have experienced a huge increase, with identity theft casework more than tripling over the last two years.

NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams reported on Friday, March 29, 2013 that seven police officers from the Davie, Florida Police Department were the victims of tax refund fraud. One officer had to wait 18 months to get his refund. Another victim who had her account flagged by the IRS was still the victim of tax refund fraud the following year.

I am greatly interested in what new actions the IRS is taking this year to ensure that American tax filers are not being victimized by such fraudulent activity.

With the height of the tax season upon us, I believe that this issue is of great importance and deserves special attention and resources, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL/joc