

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

November 19, 2013

Daniel Werfel
Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Werfel:

My constituents in Florida experience the highest per capita rate of identity theft of any state in our nation. It is important that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is using their resources to identify and to eliminate these fraudulent cases that are so harmful to Floridians and American taxpayers at large.

I wrote the Internal Revenue Service on February 15, 2013 requesting information regarding the IRS's efforts to protect taxpayers from identity theft. In response, I received a letter from the IRS on June 18, 2013 detailing measures the IRS has taken to prevent tax identification fraud. I am now writing you to request information regarding the accuracy and success of these preventative measures.

In its June letter to my office, the IRS stated that it has increased of the number and accuracy of filters that detect potential identity theft before refunds are issued. How did the new filters designed to stop the identity theft/tax refund fraud work during the 2013 tax season? I am interested to see the statistics regarding their effectiveness. Additionally, how did the number of identity tax refund fraud cases for the FY 2013 filing season compare to the number of filed cases in FY 2012?

A September 2013 report from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration disclosed that it took an average of 312 days to resolve the reviewed identity theft cases. The letter I received on June 18th stated that the IRS increased the staff dedicated to identity theft cases, broadened the scope of employee training, and established identity theft specialization groups in addition to the Identity Protection Specialization Unit. Have these changes expedited the process of reviewing identity theft cases?

Finally, I would like to know if the IRS has contributed any additional new resources to combating tax fraud other than those efforts listed in its June reply letter.

I would appreciate a timely response on this important issue within 30 days from your receipt of this letter. Thank you and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marco Rubio
United States Senator