

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2016

The Honorable John Koskinen
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Koskinen:

We are writing to urge the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to take additional action to provide credit monitoring for the millions of American taxpayers who are victims of identity theft each year as a result of periodic breaches of the IRS database.

As you know, tax filing-related identity theft is a major and continuing problem, with the IRS estimating \$3.1 billion in fraudulent refunds in the 2014 filing season, the most recent period for which accurate data is available. While that statistic alone is alarming, the actual prevalence of identity theft could be much higher, because many identity thieves do not always immediately use the personal information they steal.

For the millions of individuals and families who are victims each year, the negative effects of identity theft are often long-term and devastating. In addition to having to deal with the immediate impact of lost funds, these individuals must also carefully monitor credit reports for years to ensure that their personal information is not used to do further damage. Such efforts are often both financially and emotionally draining.

While the IRS has taken some positive steps over the past year to improve security and customer service, it has come to our attention that the agency currently offers only one year of free Equifax credit monitoring for victims of tax filing-related identity theft. Given the long-term threats faced by individuals whose personal information has been compromised, we feel that this offering is woefully insufficient. It also fails to compare to offerings from other branches of the government: the 3.7 million victims of the Office of Personnel Management's 2015 data breach, for example, were initially granted the option of up to three years of free credit monitoring.

The American taxpayer deserves to know that the sensitive information he or she is submitting to the IRS is being properly managed, and that when instances of identity theft do occur, the IRS is prepared to offer the fullest range of support to victims. We strongly urge the IRS to increase the duration of its credit monitoring support for identity theft victims and to provide greater clarity of its current policy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We will look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



REID J. RIBBLE
Member of Congress



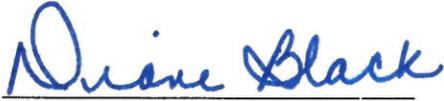
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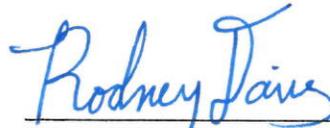
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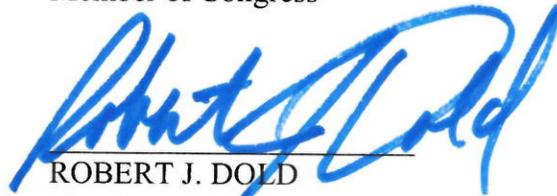
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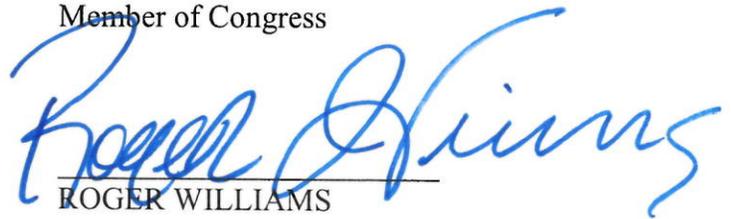

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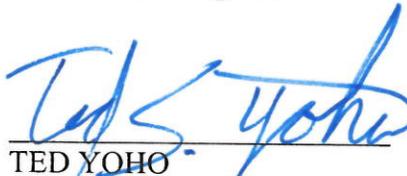

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