

May 22, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Republican Members of Congress,

Words can hardly convey the depth of our outrage at the disclosure that the Obama administration's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) discriminated against Tea Party, "patriot," right-to-life organizations, Christian ministries, pro-Israel Jewish groups and other opponents of President Obama's policies in the granting of not-for-profit tax exemptions.

We commend the early efforts by members of the House and Senate Republican Conferences to get to the bottom of who in the Obama administration ordered the IRS to engage in the political targeting of conservative critics, how many organizations and individuals were targeted and if other federal agencies were involved.

The oversight hearings planned and the bills introduced to increase the penalties for the illegal acts perpetrated by government employees at the IRS may help to reduce discrimination in the future.

However, these efforts, while commendable, have a glaring deficiency; none of them will make whole those organizations and individuals who suffered discrimination or who were politically targeted by the Obama administration's IRS.

Many organizations incurred tens of thousands of dollars in unnecessary legal and tax preparation fees pursuing their not-for-profit tax exemption. Others simply gave up and folded their organizations in the face of the daunting financial burden, intimidation and bullying at the hands of Obama's IRS bureaucrats.

Through their illegal and unconstitutional acts for all intents and purposes these IRS employees stole from the targeted organizations, and what the government stole it must return and make the parties whole.

We believe that in the case of the targeting of Tea Party, "patriot" and conservative groups, Jewish groups supportive of Israel, right-to-life organizations and others who were abused by the IRS due to their policy differences with the Obama administration the only answer is legislation to make them whole by reimbursing them for their out-of-pocket costs and for the other damages they suffered at the hands of the IRS.

What's more, there is ample precedent for awarding them monetary damages for the discrimination they suffered at the hands of government employees.

Political discrimination in the assessment of taxes or the granting of exemptions, or any other government service, cannot be tolerated. To that end, we urge you to promptly draft legislation and hold the hearings necessary to pass a bill that will authorize the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the targets of IRS political discrimination, and that will specifically authorize those targeted organizations and individuals to seek monetary damages for injuries they suffered as a result of IRS political targeting and discrimination.

Respectfully,

Diana Banister, Director, Citizens for the Republic

Gary Bauer, President, American Values

David N. Bossie, President, Citizens United

Brent Bozell, President, Media Research Center

David Bozell, Executive Director, ForAmerica

David Y. Denholm, Public Service Research Foundation

James C. Dobson, Ph.D., Founder and President, Family Talk and Family Talk Action

Elaine Donnelly, President, Center for Military Readiness

Mark Fitzgibbons, President of Corporate Affairs, American Target Advertising

Joe Gregory, Gregory Management Company

Rebecca Hagelin, Rebecca Hagelin Communications and Marketing

Andrea Lafferty, President, Traditional Values Coalition

George Landrith, President, Frontiers of Freedom

Tim LeFever, Capitol Resource Institute

Curt Levey, President, The Committee for Justice

Nathan Paul Mehrens, President, Americans for Limited Government

Ralph Reed, Chairman, Faith and Freedom Coalition

Austin Ruse, President, Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute

Rick Scarborough, President, Vision America Action

Phyllis Schlafly, President, Eagle Forum

Rev. Louis P. Sheldon, Founder, Traditional Values Coalition

Craig Shirley, Reagan Biographer

Peter J. Thomas, Chairman, The Conservative Caucus, Inc.

Matthew Staver, Founder and Chairman, Liberty Counsel

Lewis Uhler, National Tax Limitation Committee

Richard Viguerie, Chairman, ConservativeHQ.com