

JOHN LEWIS
GEORGIA,
CHAIRMAN

SUZAN DELBENE, WASHINGTON
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
TOM SUOZZI, NEW YORK
JUDY CHU, CALIFORNIA
GWEN MOORE, WISCONSIN
BRENDAN BOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA

KAREN MCAFEE,
STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

MIKE KELLY
PENNSYLVANIA,
RANKING MEMBER

JACKIE WALORSKI, INDIANA
DARIN LAHOOD, ILLINOIS
BRAD R. WENSTRUP, OHIO

RACHEL KALDAHL,
STAFF DIRECTOR

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

I write today to thank you for the many measures the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is taking with respect to collection activity in response to the needs and concerns of taxpayers during this pandemic.

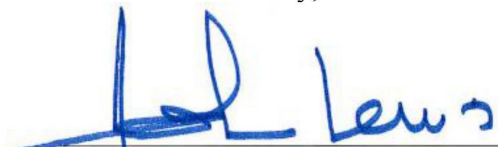
There is an important matter of ongoing concern for me—the private debt collection program. The announcement yesterday provides that the IRS has suspended field collection activities and suspended all automated liens and levies. Further, the announcement indicates that the IRS will forward no new delinquent accounts to private collection agencies during this period. This does not seem to go far enough.

As you may be aware, the Department of Education announced yesterday that all collection activities will cease with respect to delinquent Federal student loans and ordered the private companies it hires to stop calling borrowers and sending notices. I respectfully request that the IRS do the same and immediately instruct its private collection agencies to halt all collection activity.

I cannot imagine anything worse than private debt collectors calling as a family struggles with illness, unemployment, or uncertainty. It is simply wrong.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



The Honorable John Lewis, *Chairman*
Subcommittee on Oversight