

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Miller:

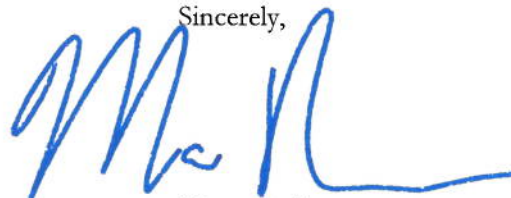
My Florida constituents, and particularly Florida's senior citizens, are increasingly targeted victims of identity theft. I am writing you to inquire about recent efforts the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has proposed or enacted to prevent this disturbing trend from worsening, as the U.S. population continues to age.

A November 2012 report released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) titled, "Identity Theft, Total Extent of Refund Fraud Using Stolen Identities is Unknown," has been brought to my attention. This report found that tax-related identity theft has increased from 47,730 recorded incidents in 2008 to 641,690 recorded incidents in 2012. It is of great concern to see that the largest growth in tax refund fraud incidents has occurred recently, with identified cases more than doubling from 242,142 in 2011 to 641,690 in 2012. Moreover, my state offices have experienced a large increase in constituent casework related to identity theft over my first two years in office. In fact, constituent casework related to identity theft has more than tripled among my state offices from 2011 to 2012.

With the continued rise of fraudulent cases, action must be taken to reverse the disturbing trend of identity theft case increases. As you know, tax-related identity fraud is especially rampant between the months of January and April, the height of the tax season. I am interested in learning what new actions the IRS is taking this year to ensure the American taxpayer is not victimized by fraudulent activity. Does the IRS devote additional resources during tax season toward combating identity theft? What future steps does the IRS plan to take in order to protect American taxpayers from this crime?

With the peak of the 2013 tax season upon us, I believe that addressing and preventing tax-related identity theft is of the utmost importance. I look forward to your reply addressing specific measures that will be taken this year to curtail identity theft-based tax refund fraud.

Sincerely,

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

Marco Rubio
United States Senator