

April 24, 2013

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1101 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Charles:

As you may know, the Tampa Bay region that I have the privilege to represent has become a hotbed for tax related identity theft.

Criminals have stolen not only the identities of hundreds of my constituents, but also from the taxpayers in the form of ill-gotten refund checks. To make matters worse, when identity theft victims file their taxes, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has not been able to send their legitimate refunds. It has taken weeks, months, and sometimes more than a year for victims to get the money that is owed to them.

Over the past year, thanks in no small part to your leadership on this issue, the House of Representatives has highlighted the problem of tax related identity theft by passing legislation, holding hearings, and including report language in appropriations bills. Last April, I personally wrote to former IRS Commissioner Shulman to call on him to address the problem of identity theft. The IRS concluded their response to me by saying "We will continue to review our processes to ensure that we are doing everything possible to minimize the affect of identity theft to taxpayers and help those who are victims of this crime."

Unfortunately, over 100 of my constituents have contacted me during the 2013 filing season because they have fallen victim to tax related identity theft. Therefore, at your April 25<sup>th</sup> oversight hearing with IRS Acting Commissioner Steve Miller, I urge you to emphasize this important issue. The IRS should institute policies and procedures to better protect taxpayers against identity theft. However, if the agency believes that additional legislative changes are needed, they should take this opportunity to share their proposals with the Committee.

Thank you for holding this hearing and your important work to help combat tax related identity theft.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

C. W. Bill Young  
Member of Congress  
Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> District