



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President

Eugene Hudson, Jr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Augusta Y. Thomas
National Vice President
for Women and Fair Practices

April 14, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), AFL-CIO, which represents 670,000 federal workers in 65 federal agencies, I urge you to oppose H.R. 1563, the "Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015," when it is considered under suspension of the rules this week. This legislation would make individuals with seriously delinquent tax debts ineligible for federal employment. Specifically, H.R. 1563 would require the termination of federal employees who have seriously delinquent tax debts, and force federal employees to either provide their personal tax records upon request, or subject themselves to retaliation. Such action is in direct violation of federal employees' right to keep their personal tax records private.

AFGE believes that all federal employees, like all Americans, must pay their legally required amount of taxes. We also know that the overwhelming majority of federal employees take their income tax obligations seriously. However, when a seriously delinquent tax debt exists, it is more likely to be paid if an employee continues in federal government service, and is then able to make good faith efforts to pay the debt.

AFGE applauds the goal of getting all Americans to pay their legally required amount of taxes. Both the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the employing federal agency already have sufficient legal authorities to take appropriate action in cases involving a federal employee with a tax delinquency. AFGE believes any legislation addressing delinquent tax debts needs to provide a constructive manner of encouraging employees, where appropriate, to remain employed, and to get employees in default to pay their taxes. **Please oppose the "Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015," H.R. 1563.** If you have any questions, please contact me at beth.moten@afge.org.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Moten
Legislative and Political Director

