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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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July 22, 2014

Eliana Johnson
Media Editor, National Review
215 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I am writing regarding a story you wrote today in the National Review. Normally I do not respond to opinion pieces, but I believe you unfairly and incorrectly criticized a member of my staff. Although I respect your right to disagree with me on policy issues, you asserted incorrectly that my Deputy Staff Director on the Oversight Committee, Susanne Sachsman Grooms, worked at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for former Acting Commissioner Steven Miller when he served as Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement.

In fact, Ms. Grooms never worked directly for Mr. Miller. Ms. Grooms served as an adviser to the Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement until mid-2009—about a year before IRS employees in Cincinnati first began using inappropriate criteria to screen applicants for tax-exempt status—and that position was held not by Mr. Miller, but by another official. Mr. Miller became Deputy Commissioner after Ms. Grooms transferred to the Criminal Division in 2009, where she reported to senior officials of that Division. She joined my staff in 2011.

This is the second time you have incorrectly reported about Ms. Grooms' previous position at the IRS. The last time you did was in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal on June 23, 2013. Although I wrote a letter at the time to correct the record, they declined to publish it.

Ms. Grooms is a talented and principled attorney who is dedicated to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government, and she served with distinction as a career government attorney under both the Bush and Obama Administrations. You could have avoided these errors by simply contacting my office prior to publishing your piece. I respectfully request that you publish a correction to rectify this error.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member