

## National Taxpayer Advocate Calls for Repeal of Private Tax Collection Program

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### Rothman Welcomes Taxpayer Advocate's Call for Repeal of Administration's Decision to Privatize Tax Collection

Today, the National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, issued a report to Congress calling for the repeal of the Bush Administration's policy to outsource the collection of unpaid federal taxes to private debt collection agencies.

Last year, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) sponsored the House-passed amendment to stop the IRS from spending any money on implementing its outsourcing program. Rothman's statement on Olson's recommendation follows:

"The Bush Administration's decision last year to begin handing 26,000 taxpayer files over to private, for-profit debt collection companies was wrong and irresponsible. This outsourcing program is estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars a year and has already allowed the most complained about industry in America to get hold of tax returns, which include taxpayers' Social Security numbers. I have long opposed this terrible program and I applaud the National Taxpayer Advocate's call for its repeal.

"As an independent office within the Internal Revenue Service, the National Taxpayer Advocate is dedicated to protecting taxpayers from any harm or abuse. The President should respect the American people enough to listen to Olson's advice and repeal his private debt collection program immediately. However, if the Administration refuses to end this mistake voluntarily, then the new Democratic-controlled Congress will act."

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Read more about Rep. Rothman's past efforts to stop the Administration's outsourcing plan.