

June 12, 2013

The Honorable Mark Pryor
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pryor,

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to express deep concerns with S. 1045, which would amend Title 5 of the U.S. Code to allow for the termination of federal employees who have "seriously delinquent tax debt." Additionally, the bill prevents federal employment to those deemed tax delinquent. I respectfully urge you to reconsider your support of this legislation.

This legislation seeks to single out federal employees when, in fact, the number of civil servants who are tax delinquent is exceptionally small. Ninety-six percent of federal employees are compliant with tax laws, which is much higher than their private sector counterparts. In comparison, in FY2010 members of the private sector owed \$114.2 billion, while federal employees only owed \$1.03 billion, according to the IRS. There are laws currently in place that deal with delinquent taxpayers, and we should focus efforts on working to ensure that these laws are enforced judiciously across the board. Federal agencies and departments have means to deal with delinquent employees, with consequences ranging from financial counseling to termination.

Like many citizens, federal employees face harsh financial times. The federal workforce is in the middle of the third year of the federal pay freeze, and many face furloughs that further diminishes their take home pay. It is hard to understand how Congress expects these financially strapped federal workers will pay delinquent taxes should they become unemployed.

It is difficult and perhaps impossible to judge an individual's intent when it comes to the failure to file taxes. FMA believes a solution to the problem may be realized through greater oversight and enforcement of tax laws currently in place. If these rules are deemed too lenient, new tax rules and regulations that do not isolate federal employees from the rest of the American public should be considered.

We can all agree that no one should be allowed to evade paying taxes that are owed according to law. Singling out our nation's civil servants, however, is not the answer, and I respectfully ask that you oppose S. 1045. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President