

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chair, Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José E. Serrano
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial
Services and General Government
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1001 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano:

We, the Democratic members of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, write to express our strong support of the mission and services provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). We respectfully request that the Committee funds the IRS at the President's requested level of \$12.3 billion for fiscal year 2017.

In its December 2015 report on the 2015 tax filing season, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) observed serious declines in taxpayer services, and noted that this decline coincides with an approximately ten percent reduction in agency funding. While IRS funding for FY 2016 included an additional \$290 million in agency funding for measurable improvements in customer service, we urge that all of the IRS's budget functions be unconditionally and fully funded for fiscal year 2017. Full funding would entail \$2.4 billion for taxpayer services, \$5.2 billion for enforcement, \$4.3 billion for operations support, and \$343 million for business systems.

The President's fiscal year 2017 budget request restores desperately-needed funding for this critical agency. We strongly urge you to provide this needed funding. As always, we thank you for your hard work and leadership in crafting the annual Financial Services Appropriations bill, and we appreciate your consideration of our views on this important matter.

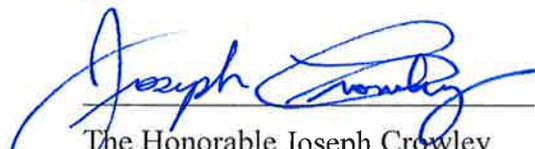
Sincerely,



The Honorable John Lewis



The Honorable Charles B. Rangel



The Honorable Joseph Crowley



The Honorable Danny K. Davis