



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Acting Commissioner Bessent,

We write today regarding substantial delays in federal retirement processing for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees. Our offices are hearing from constituents who participated in the Deferred Resignation Program 2.0 (DRP) and have not received their annual leave or annuity payments. According to reports, DRP guaranteed fully paid administrative leave for employees until September 30, 2025, and introduced Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA). Thus, employees near retirement age could retire earlier with full benefits.

Tax Notes reported that, as of early December 2025, the IRS had a backlog of 7,300 retirement applications.¹ Further, former IRS employees have a wait of between six to nine months before individuals receive their first annuity payment.² Traditionally, after retiring, IRS employees receive their final paycheck and annual leave within a few weeks. The delay in processing and payouts has caused suffering and real financial hardship.³ Given the above, please provide written responses to the following by February 17, 2026:

1. How many IRS employees took the DRP?
2. How many retirement applications have IRS employees submitted since January 20, 2025?

¹ [Former IRS Employees Face Lengthy Retirement Payment Delays | Tax Notes](#)

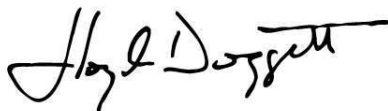
² [IRS retirees left without income as retirement payments remain delayed | wusa9.com](#)

³ [Kansas City IRS workers face payment delays after taking early retirement, IRS retirees left without income as retirement payments remain delayed | wusa9.com, Former IRS worker says she's still owed pay months after retiring.](#)

3. What is the average wait time for employees to start receiving their first annuity after an application has been submitted?
4. How many retirement applications have been reviewed by the IRS to date?
5. What is the current backlog of retirement applications waiting for review by the IRS?
6. What was the backlog of retirement applications at the IRS on December 31, 2025?
7. How many retirement applications have been approved by the IRS and are pending at Office of Personnel Management (OPM)?
8. How long, on average, does it take the IRS to review and approve a retirement application?
9. How many IRS employees (by full-time equivalents) are reviewing these retirement applications?
10. When does the IRS expect to finish reviewing applications in the backlog submitted on or after January 20, 2025?
11. Since September 30, 2025, have employees who participated in the DRP received any money while their retirement applications are pending? If so, how many employees?
12. Is there an expedited review process for employees experiencing financial hardship? If not, why?

We look forward to receiving your response. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health



The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight



The Honorable Don Beyer