January 30, 2018

The Honorable Kristi Noem
United States House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Noem:

I write in support of H.R. 3500, the “Ensuring Integrity Within the IRS Workforce Act.” This legislation prohibits the IRS from rehiring employees previously fired for misconduct issues.

H.R. 3500 will force the IRS to reexamine its hiring practices, which have clearly allowed problematic employees to slip through the cracks. According to an independent audit of the IRS by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), the IRS hired 7,500 employees, 2,000 of which had previously worked for the agency.

Shockingly, the IRS rehired over 200 employees between January 2015 and March 2016 that had been previously fired for misconduct. In other words, a staggering 10% of the IRS’s rehired employees had previously been fired for misconduct by the agency.

The litany of charges against the delinquent employees is vast, ranging from threatening coworkers to illegally accessing taxpayer information and falsifying documents. The IRS even rehired one employee despite the inclusion of a “do not hire” notation in the employee’s personnel file. This is an ongoing problem, as the IRS has refused to adjust their hiring practices in response to previous TIGTA audits.

By preventing the IRS from rehiring employees with misconduct issues, this bill ensures that taxpayers are better protected from government bureaucrats. Congress should swiftly pass this bill, and President Trump should sign it into law.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform