

March 26, 2026

Dear Honorable Member of Congress:

The **103** undersigned organizations write to urge you to take immediate action to defend taxpayer privacy, uphold the rule of law, and protect the integrity of our nation's tax system. We ask that you sign on to the Congressional *amicus* brief being led by the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Espaillat, and by Senator Cortez-Masto and Senator Padilla, in *Center for Taxpayer Rights v. IRS*, currently pending before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Congress should also advance data privacy legislation to prevent the weaponization of government data systems against the people that they are designed to serve.

Over the past year, the federal government has systematically attempted to transform confidential government databases into tools of immigration enforcement. What began with the IRS-ICE data sharing agreement has expanded into a pattern that now spans multiple agencies and data systems, threatening the privacy of every person who interacts with the federal government. These actions also put employees of the government in a totally untenable position, and many have quit at great personal cost rather than comply.

The facts are stark. In August 2025, the IRS disclosed confidential address information for approximately 47,360 taxpayers to ICE in response to a bulk request covering 1.28 million individuals. On November 21, 2025, Judge Kollar-Kotelly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia found this data sharing likely violated federal law and issued a preliminary injunction blocking further disclosures.

Then, in February 2026, the government was forced to admit even more. In the Romo Declaration filed across all three pending cases, the IRS acknowledged that it had mischaracterized how information was shared with DHS and that over 2,000 disclosures should never have occurred because the address fields in ICE's requests were incomplete. Judge Kollar-Kotelly stated that the government had broken the law 42,695 times and indicated her willingness to conduct a hearing. These are not abstract legal disputes—they represent real violations of people's privacy, conducted in defiance of protections that Congress itself created.

The IRS-ICE data sharing is part of a broader, systematic effort to repurpose government data for immigration enforcement. This pattern now extends across the federal government:

- **IRS taxpayer data:** Bulk sharing of confidential tax records with ICE, in violation of Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code—the post-Watergate statute Congress enacted specifically to prevent this kind of abuse
- **Medicaid data:** HHS has shared personal data of Medicaid enrollees in multiple states with DHS for immigration enforcement, despite longstanding federal rules prohibiting such disclosures

- **SNAP data:** USDA has demanded six years of applicant and recipient records from states, threatening fiscal penalties for noncompliance, prompting a 23-state lawsuit
- **DMV data:** ICE has frictionless, self-service access to the personal data of residents in every state through the Nlets system, including over 290 million queries in a single year, with 41 states sharing driver's license photos that can be analyzed using facial recognition tools
- **Centralized enforcement database:** The Administration is reportedly building an app to consolidate data from IRS, HHS, HUD, the Department of Labor, and SSA for centralized immigration enforcement management

This pattern sends an unmistakable message: if you interact with the government and follow the law—including to file your taxes, receive health care, feed your family, or obtain a driver's license—your personal information may be turned against you. The chilling effect is already measurable. The Yale Budget Lab has estimated that IRS-ICE data sharing alone could cost more than \$300 billion in lost tax revenue between 2026 and 2035 as taxpayers withdraw from the system.

Congress must stand behind the laws it wrote by signing on to the Congressional amicus brief. The *Center for Taxpayer Rights v. IRS* case, brought by Democracy Forward, is now on appeal before the D.C. Circuit (Case No. 26-5006). The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has previously filed an *amicus* brief in this case, and 93 Members of Congress filed an amicus in the related *Centro* case. An *amicus* brief for the current appeal is being prepared for Congressional review by Monday, March 23, with a filing deadline of Thursday, March 26.

Section 6103 was not an accident or an afterthought. It was a deliberate choice, forged in the aftermath of Watergate, to build a wall between tax administration and political enforcement. Congress has considered and rejected immigration-enforcement exceptions to this statute multiple times. The executive branch cannot be permitted to accomplish through bureaucratic maneuvering what Congress has explicitly refused to authorize.

The economic and democratic consequences of inaction are severe and affect every American. In 2022, workers using ITINs paid \$59 billion in federal income taxes and contributed an additional \$26 billion to Social Security and \$6.4 billion to Medicare—programs from which they cannot receive benefits. When taxpayers fear that filing will expose them to enforcement, they stop filing. This does not just harm immigrant communities; it reduces revenue for every federal program, weakens the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, and devastates local economies.

More fundamentally, data privacy is democratic infrastructure. If the executive branch can ignore explicit statutory limitations on taxpayer data, nothing prevents similar breaches of other confidential information systems. Any group that falls out of political favor is at risk. The voluntary compliance system that funds the federal government depends on a simple compact: the government will use the information you provide for

the purpose you provided it, and nothing else, unless specifically authorized by law. Breaking that compact threatens the functioning of government itself.

**We respectfully urge every Member of Congress to take three concrete steps.**

- **Sign on to the Congressional amicus brief** in *Center for Taxpayer Rights v. IRS* before the March 26<sup>th</sup> filing deadline, signaling to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that Congress stands behind the taxpayer privacy laws it enacted
- **Conduct immediate oversight hearings** with Treasury, IRS, and DHS leadership on the scope of data sharing, the Romo Declaration admissions, and the status of the administration's cross-agency enforcement database
- **Introduce and advance data privacy legislation** that protects confidential information, prevents cross-agency data weaponization, and creates enforceable accountability for unlawful disclosures, protects whistleblowers, and bars federal agencies from using data for purposes other than that for which it was initially collected.

We stand ready to work with you to protect the integrity of our tax system, the privacy rights of all Americans, and the democratic principle that government data must serve the people and should not be used against them.

Sincerely,

**National**

Alianza Americas  
Americans for Tax Fairness  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Law Caucus  
Center for Democracy & Technology  
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Children's HealthWatch  
Church World Service  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Cause  
Consumer Action  
Democracy at Work Institute  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)  
Equal Rights Advocates  
First Gen Empower  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Hispanic Federation  
Housing and Education Alliance, Inc.  
Immigrants Rising

Immigration Law & Justice Network  
Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)  
Movement Advancement Project  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Employment Law Project  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Women's Law Center Action Fund  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
SimplifyCT INC  
Small Business For America's Future  
Stop AAPI Hate  
UnidosUS  
We are CASA

## **State**

### **California**

Ahri Center  
Alianza Sacramento  
Alliance San Diego  
Building Skills Partnership (BSP)  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network  
California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition (CUHEC)  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Courage California  
Eastmont Community Center  
End Child Poverty California  
End Child Poverty California powered by GRACE  
Ensuring Opportunity Campaign  
Equality California  
ICON CDC  
Inclusive Action for the City  
Legal Aid At Work  
Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego  
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
Northern California Center for Well-Being  
(ORALE) Organizing Rooted in Abolition Liberation and Empowerment

Para Los Niños  
PUENTE Learning Center  
San Diego for Every Child  
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)  
South Asian Network  
Southern California College Attainment Network  
Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC)  
The Central Valley Urban Institute  
The Children's Partnership  
Up Valley Family Centers of Napa County  
Ventures

### **Colorado**

Colorado Organizations for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights  
Mi Casa Resource Center

### **Delaware**

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Delaware)  
Latin American Community Center

### **District of Columbia**

Ayuda

### **Illinois**

AIDS Foundation Chicago  
Instituto del Progreso Latino  
The Resurrection Project

### **Kansas**

El Centro Inc.

### **Maine**

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Maine Children's Alliance

### **Massachusetts**

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee  
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)  
East Boston Social Centers  
Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice  
Massachusetts Council of Nonprofits  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
The Boston Foundation  
Together for Kids Coalition

**Michigan**

Community Economic Development Association of Michigan

**Nevada**

Silver State Equality

**New York**

Center for Elder Law and Justice

**North Carolina**

Meals4Families

North Carolina Budget & Tax Center

**Pennsylvania**

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

**Rhode Island**

Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice

**Tennessee**

La Paz Chattanooga

**Texas**

La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)