

April 8, 2015

Dear Representative:

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 the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act (H.R. 1563) as it prohibits employment from those deemed tax delinquent, and respectfully urge you to oppose the bill when it is considered on the floor next week.

While FMA appreciates the intention of the bill, ensuring federal employment applicants fulfill their tax obligations, the language of the bill is too broad and does not take enough consideration for those who have developed repayment plans. This bill will keep capable applicants from applying to join the federal workforce. Further concerning is the Office of Personnel Management already provides a form, Form 306, providing for disclosure of tax debt, and explanation of what is owed, and repayment plans. Over the past several years, the federal workforce has struggled with recruitment: agencies have implemented hiring freezes due to budgetary restraints; the work of federal employees has been disparaged despite needed services provided to the public; and, their earned pay and benefits are constantly under attack. By further limiting the federal government's human capital resources, federal departments and agencies will be limited in their ability to fulfill congressionally-mandated missions and goals to serve the American people.

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 H.R. 1563. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia J. Niehaus', written in a cursive style.

Patricia J. Niehaus  
National President