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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To strengthen the protections from levy by the Internal Revenue Service
for taxpayers in economic hardship.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on _____

A BILL

To strengthen the protections from levy by the Internal
Revenue Service for taxpayers in economic hardship.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Taxpayer Economic
5 Hardship Protection Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION FROM LEVY FOR TAXPAYERS IN ECO-**
2 **NOMIC HARDSHIP.**

3 The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's
4 delegate) shall take the following actions to protect tax-
5 payers in economic hardship from levy:

6 (1) Establish quality review procedures that
7 measure whether employees of the Internal Revenue
8 Service identified and considered the possibility that
9 a taxpayer was in economic hardship before levying.

10 (2) Establish quality review procedures that
11 measure whether, in each case in which an employee
12 of the Internal Revenue Service identifies economic
13 hardship of a taxpayer, the employee adhered to the
14 decision by the United States Tax Court entitled,
15 "Vinatieri against Commissioner" (133 T.C. 392
16 (2009)), by placing the account of the taxpayer in
17 a currently not collectible status rather than levying
18 on the taxpayer.

19 (3) Develop, and publish as part of the Internal
20 Revenue Manual, guidelines for how collection em-
21 ployees of the Internal Revenue Service, on the basis
22 of information in Internal Revenue Service and
23 third-party databases, should consider the possibility
24 that a taxpayer is in economic hardship before
25 issuing a levy.

1 (4) Adjust the Federal Payment Levy Program
2 low income filter to include accounts with unfiled re-
3 turns.

4 (5) Inform collection employees of the Internal
5 Revenue Service of procedural changes described in
6 the preceding paragraphs by issuing a separate alert
7 and a memorandum.

8 (6) Update training materials and job aids to
9 reflect the decision of the United States Tax Court
10 entitled, “Vinatieri against Commissioner” (133
11 T.C. 392 (2009) and the changes to the Internal
12 Revenue Manual made in 2013 relating to liability
13 collection (part 5, chapter 19) and notice of levy
14 (part 5, chapter 11).