

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
2433 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Jeffries,

We're grateful for your leadership in securing much-needed funding for the modernization of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Your efforts have been instrumental in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of this vital agency, which has already [significantly improved customer service](#) in the last year.

As leaders in the Congress representing New York, your commitment to defending the IRS's budget against potential cuts is pivotal. **A fully-funded and modernized IRS is a lifeline for many New Yorkers. By defending IRS funding we are defending the rights of New Yorkers to file their taxes with fewer headaches, lower costs, and to be able to more easily access essential benefits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.**

Moreover, tax enforcement plays a critical role in ensuring fiscal fairness. **It is critical that IRS funding is protected so that the agency can ensure that the wealthiest individuals and corporations pay what they owe.** Recently, the Treasury Department released a new estimate showing that the projected tax gap for 2021 reached [\\$688 billion](#), a 57 percent increase in the amount of money owed, but not paid. New analysis from the [Better IRS coalition](#) also found that wealthy tax cheats in New York could keep over [\\$68 billion in their pockets](#) if legislation to defund the IRS's enforcement capabilities were to become law.

Since the IRS collects 96 percent of the federal government's revenue, fully funding the agency is essential for ensuring we are able to make critical investments that empower working families. This is not just a matter of equity; it is about upholding the principle that everyone is subject to the same laws and responsibilities, regardless of their financial standing or income.

We're especially excited that the IRS is developing the Direct File pilot, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the IRS and New York State that will allow over 2.5 million New Yorkers to file their taxes for free in the upcoming tax filing season. Recently, New York Attorney General Letitia James organized a [letter signed by 18 attorneys general](#) stating, "It is essential to give taxpayers as many options as possible to quickly, easily and reliably file their returns, and a robust Direct File program is a critical element of a fair and competitive system." **This free and simplified public tax filing option will save New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars, taking the headache and cost out of filing taxes for many low-income and middle-class taxpayers and communities of color.**

Furthermore, this **Direct File pilot will play a crucial role in helping more New Yorkers access critical tax benefits** such as the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. These programs have proven vital to the wellbeing of millions of families – reducing poverty and removing barriers to work – and streamlined access to them will significantly improve their quality of life.

**We, the undersigned, represent 34 New York State unions and anti-poverty, child welfare, anti-poverty, economic justice and racial justice organizations, urge you to continue your advocacy for IRS modernization and appreciate your ongoing leadership in opposing any further cuts to the agency's funding.** Your support is not just an investment in an agency; it is an investment in the financial health and stability of New Yorkers and all Americans.

Thank you again for your dedication and leadership. We look forward to your continued support and are eager to see the positive outcomes that a modernized IRS can bring to our state and its residents.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Quality Education

Citizen Action of New York

Astor Services

City Harvest

Economic Security Project Action

Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies

Center for Popular Democracy

Downtown Women for Change

Churches United for Fair Housing

Federation of Protestant Welfare  
Agencies

Fiscal Policy Institute

Food Bank For New York City

For the Many

Free The People Rochester

Indivisible Mohawk Valley

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and  
Social Justice

Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS

Mohawk Valley CAA

Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow

New York Communities for Change

New York Immigration Coalition

New York State United Teachers

NYPAN Greene

PEER/NYPAN Suffolk County

Rise

Save Our Storefronts

Strong Economy For All Coalition

The Children's Agenda

United Community Center of  
Westchester, Inc.

United Neighborhood Houses

United Federation of Teachers

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

United Way of Greater Rochester and the  
Finger Lakes

White Plains Youth Bureau