(3) 6-15-16

15-21 ↓

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 737

OFFERED BY MR. CARTWRIGHT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas J. Russell George was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate as the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) in November 2004;

Whereas Inspector General George conducted an extensive multi-year investigation to determine whether Internal Revenue Service employees intentionally targeted applicants for tax-exempt status for political reasons;

Whereas Inspector General George's office interviewed more than 100 witnesses, searched tens of thousands of documents, recovered emails from backup tapes, and spent more than $2 million;

Whereas Inspector General George's office concluded in a report issued on May 14, 2013, that Internal Revenue Service employees "used inappropriate criteria" to screen applications for tax-exempt status;

Whereas Inspector General George confirmed before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 22, 2013, that his office uncovered "no evidence that IRS employees were politically motivated in their creation or use of the inappropriate screening criteria";

Whereas at the request of the Senate Finance Committee in a letter dated June 23, 2014, Inspector General George's

review also included an investigation into the hard drive crash of Lois Lerner, the former Director of Tax Exempt Organizations;

Whereas Inspector General George's office issued a report on June 30, 2015, concluding that they ''did not uncover evidence that the IRS and its employees purposely erased the tapes in order to conceal responsive e-mails from the Congress, the DOJ or TIGTA'';

Whereas Inspector General George's office concluded in the June 30, 2015, report that they identified ''no evidence that the IRS employees involved intended to destroy data on the tapes or the hard drives in order to keep this information from Congress, the DOJ or TIGTA'';

Whereas Inspector General George's office reported that ''øn¿o evidence was uncovered that any IRS employees had been directed to destroy or hide information from Congress, the DOJ, or TIGTA'';

Whereas Inspector General George testified before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 25, 2015, that Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen has been ''extraordinarily cooperative''; and

Whereas Inspector General George and Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Timothy Camus submitted written testimony to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform dated June 25, 2015, about emails their office recovered after Ms. Lerner's hard drive crash, and concluded: ''A review of these new e-mails did not provide additional information for the purposes of our investigation'': Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 (1) That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that
2 Commissioner Koskinen is an honorable public servant
3 who has been extraordinarily cooperative with Congress,
4 the Inspector General, and the Department of Justice, and;
5 (2) That Commissioner Koskinen should retain all rights to any
6 annuity for which he is eligible under Chapter 83 or Chapter
7 84 of title 5, United States Code.

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