

United States Senate Committee on Finance

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GRASSLEY, BAUCUS CONTINUE REVIEW OF TAX PREPARATION CHAINS TO ENSURE QUALITY OF PAID PREPARER SERVICE

Washington, DC — U.S. Senators Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, today continued their review of the paid tax preparation industry. In April, the Senators held a hearing in conjunction with a Government Accountability Office investigation that uncovered dishonesty, inaccurate information and poor service given to taxpayers by paid tax preparers. In a letter sent to major firms today, Grassley and Baucus requested information on business models, training and compensation of tax preparers, quality control and other issues. At the April hearing, Grassley and Baucus called for training and competency standards for paid preparers and more defined IRS disciplinary rules.

"Senator Baucus and I have co-sponsored legislation to make paid preparers more accountable to the taxpayers they serve," Grassley said. **"Getting this information will help us refine our pending legislation to ensure that when taxpayers use a preparer, they can trust that preparer to be a knowledgeable professional who will do the right thing and put the taxpayers' interest first."**

"Paid preparers are the links between 60 percent of America's taxpayers and the IRS," said Baucus. **"When taxpayers put their faith, trust and money into the hands of paid preparers, they have a right to expect that the preparers will comply with the law. We take very seriously the problems uncovered by GAO, and we intend to fix them."**

The text of the letter can be found at:

<http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/baucus.htm>

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