



<http://finance.senate.gov>
Press_Office@finance-rep.senate.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
Re: Report on the private debt collection program
Da: Thursday, March 29, 2007

Sen. Chuck Grassley, ranking member of the Committee on Finance, today made the following comment on a new report from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration on the congressionally created IRS program to use private contractors to collect owed taxes.

“The report shows the IRS properly developed and implemented the private debt collection program. The agency is working to ensure that the program adequately protects taxpayers’ rights and privacy. And the report finds that the IRS maintained proper oversight of the private debt collection contractors and took appropriate steps to ensure that contractor employees received adequate training on applicable laws and regulations before allowing them access to federal tax information. My colleagues who are trying to repeal the private debt collection program before it’s had a chance to work should read this report. It will ease their concerns. This doesn’t mean we need to stop monitoring the program. But the report’s findings show the program is off to the right start. As the IRS commissioner has said, private debt collection will help us narrow the tax gap and bring in owed tax dollars.”