



COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2019, regarding IRS's involvement in the widely-reported college admissions scandal being prosecuted out of the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in Boston, Massachusetts. The IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) division has co-lead this ongoing federal investigation with the FBI since its inception. IRS investigators continue working closely with the Department of Justice to evaluate all available charges within our jurisdiction, including any viable tax charges.

Although we are unable to comment specifically on an ongoing investigation, there are violations of the Internal Revenue Code interspersed throughout this widespread criminal activity. CI vigorously investigates those violations, in full collaboration with its law enforcement partners.

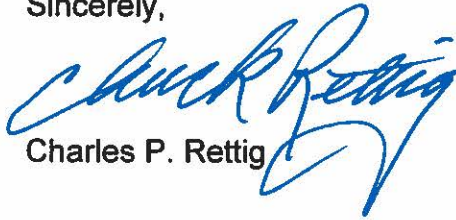
For example, the lead defendant William Rick Singer pled guilty to his role in a tax-related conspiracy to defraud the IRS, in violation of Section 371 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 371). Bruce Isackson, one of the parents who claimed fraudulent charitable deductions on his individual income tax returns was also charged with a tax-related violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 for conspiring with Mr. Singer to defraud the IRS. Additionally, tax-related criminal charges are under consideration for other parents who may have fraudulently claimed bribes as deductions on their income tax returns.

Also, the IRS and the USAO inserted language into the plea agreements of all cooperating defendants who may have improperly taken tax deductions for bribe payments to mandate their cooperation with the IRS to pay back taxes, inclusive of interest and penalties.

I am proud of CI's participation in this investigation and their ongoing commitment to both foster compliance with our nation's tax laws and deliver justice for the American taxpayer. For further case information, including the status of each defendant, charging documents, and plea agreements, please visit the following website: [www.justice.gov/usao-ma/investigations-college-admissions-and-testing-bribery-scheme](http://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/investigations-college-admissions-and-testing-bribery-scheme).

I hope this information is helpful. I am sending a similar letter to Senator Wyden. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me, or a member of your staff may contact Leonard Oursler, Director, Legislative Affairs, at 202-317-6985.

Sincerely,



Charles P. Rettig