

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 13, 2017

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As part of our Committee's annual commemoration of "Sunshine Week," during which Congress and open government organizations across the country focus on measures to enhance government transparency, we request that you place H.R. 305, the Presidential Tax Transparency Act, on the agenda for the Committee's business meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017. This is a bipartisan bill to require the President disclose his tax returns for public release, and it was referred to the Oversight Committee on January 5, 2017.

For more than 40 years, Presidents and presidential candidates have released their tax returns so the American people have information about their financial and business dealings. President Donald Trump broke with this precedent, stating that he could not release his tax returns while he was being audited.

However, when asked during testimony before the Judiciary Committee on September 21, 2016, whether taxpayers are prohibited from releasing their tax returns while they are being audited, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen responded: "They are not prohibited."

As lawmakers, Members of Congress have the ability to pass legislation to ensure that this information is available to the American public. This is not a partisan issue. H.R. 305 is a common-sense bill that would apply to future presidents of both political parties.

If it is not possible to schedule H.R. 305 for consideration on Thursday, then we respectfully request that the Committee consider the bill at our next regularly scheduled business meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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