



PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

An Association for Federal Managers and Management Officials

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For Immediate Release
April 9, 2019

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PMA Releases Statement on Taxpayer First Act of 2019

Washington, D.C. – Executive Director Thomas Burger of the Professional Managers Association (PMA) released the following statement regarding the Taxpayer First Act of 2019:

“It is no secret the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is in need of modernization and reform in order to better serve the American people. It is encouraging that a bipartisan group of lawmakers came together to put forward the Taxpayer First Act of 2019,” Burger noted.

“By requiring the IRS to submit a modernization plan to Congress, this bill places the agency in charge of its own future and emboldens IRS professionals to identify and correct inefficiencies within the Service. However, it is important to note, as a customer service organization the largest strain on the IRS’s ability to serve the public is chronic underfunding. A lack of adequate funds and ongoing continuing resolutions prevent the hiring and training of well qualified personnel to carry out the agency’s mission,” Burger continued.

“Recent reports from the [Government Accountability Office](#) and [National Taxpayer Advocate](#) affirm the need for adequate Congressional funding in order to improve customer service, secure IT modernization efforts, and bolster enforcement capabilities. The Taxpayer First Act shares these goals- calling for increased cyber security, taxpayer protections, and whistleblower rights. If Congress and the Administration truly wish to fulfill this mission, concurrent increased funding is necessary,” Burger said.

“As the Taxpayer First Act of 2019 moves to the House and Senate floor for a vote, PMA encourages its passage. Congressional members must be aware though, this is not the be all and end all for improving the agency, a fully funded IRS is critical for meeting current mission standards and improving those standards in the future.”

Formed in 1981 by IRS Managers, the Professional Managers Association is a national membership association representing the interests of professional managers, management officials and non-bargaining unit employees in the federal government.

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