From: cynthia@lodyga.com
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Comment Regarding IRS Form 990
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:43:51 PM

Dear Ms. Preston,

I understand that the Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department are seeking public comment about the Form 990, under which secular non-profit organizations are required to file each year to retain their tax exemption (a burden of more than 25 million hours by your own estimation), while churches are automatically exempted from this onerous requirement under federal law. This is unfair treatment shields churches from accountability and amounts to government favoritism toward religion.

What's worse is that religious organizations currently do not even have to send a notice to the IRS that they are claiming a 990 filing exemption, opening the door to any group that claims it is religious to avoid all public transparency and accountability. Ms. Preston, I urge you to put an end to the unequal treatment to secular non-profits.

The U.S. public, which subsidizes tax-exempt organizations, is owed visibility into the annual gross income, disbursements and other tax information gathered on the Form 990. Most importantly, we are owed this visibility into *__all__* tax-exempt organizations whether they claim to be religious or not.

Maintaining the status quo continues to allow for widespread abuse, preying upon vulnerable populations, and fraud. Our secular government has no business favoring religious organization over non-religious ones. It's wrong and needs to stop.

The IRS has it within your power to change this for better.

1. Any IRS oversight of 501(c)(3) organizations must be equally enforced against religious organizations.
2. The IRS should, at the very minimum, require church entities claiming exemption from filing the 990 to inform the IRS through a letter (or via a prescribed form).

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia R. Lodyga

United States Citizen and Tax Payer