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Administration Attempts to Brush Aside IRS Scandal With Meaningless Paid Vacation for Official Involved

Systemic Changes Needed to Overhaul IRS, Other Federal Agencies

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Tea Party Patriots (TPP)**, the nation's largest tea party organization, criticized the administration's response to Lois Lerner, who oversees tax-exempt groups at the IRS and has been put on paid administrative leave.

"This will not be solved with a few resignations," said **Jenny Beth Martin, Co-Founder and National Coordinator of Tea Party Patriots**. "Instead of answering questions, the IRS and the White House are protecting themselves at the expense of the American people. We demand to know what all IRS officials involved knew, including Ms. Lerner.

"The administration cannot simply bury this scandal by giving employees paid leave or creating the illusion of resignation for an employee who was already planning to resign. All who were responsible must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law and they must not be allowed to continue to work for the government where they could use an American taxpayer-funded agency as a political weapon again in the future.

"We need to see a complete accounting of the IRS, beginning with the tax code and ending with 'low level' employees hired to enact the law, rules, and regulations. We must determine how this discrimination and targeting based on political ideology happened. The agency is broken and this corruption has been allowed to seep deep into the system. The broken, corruptive system has given too much discretionary authority to unaccountable government agents and has allowed these agents to apply the law in an unequal and unfair manner, to harass the American people, and to stifle the rights endowed by our Creator and protected by our Constitution. Ultimately we must overhaul or replace this broken, corrupt agency and any other agency that is similarly broken and corruptive.

"The IRS scandal has exposed the abusive and intrusive power of big government. In the coming days and weeks, we will be highlighting examples of government agencies twisting the will of the American people. We will outline our solutions to completely overhaul a broken system and restore our rights and the Constitution which is designed to protect our rights."

Tea Party Patriots is a national grassroots coalition with more than 3,400 locally organized chapters and more than 15 million supporters nationwide. *Tea Party Patriots is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting the principles of fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government, and free markets. Visit Tea Party Patriots online at www.TeaPartyPatriots.org.*

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