

THE COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR FILING

Today, America's tax filing system is not working for all families.

- Americans spend [1.7 billion hours and \\$31 billion annually](#) to file their taxes, even though the overwhelming majority should be able to file in mere minutes and for free.
- Millions more find it too hard or expensive to file taxes at all, including [over five million households](#) who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) but do not receive it.
- An estimated 87 million taxpayers lose as much as [\\$13 billion of their refunds](#) to tax prep fees annually because the industry makes it difficult to access the free file system.
- [72% of taxpayers are "very" or "somewhat" interested](#) in an IRS direct file tool, including 83% of taxpayers who self-prepare their returns.

The tax preparation industry has a long and well-documented history of taking advantage of American taxpayers.

- Intuit agreed to pay [\\$141 million to 4.4 million Americans](#) across the country to resolve a claim that it steered millions of low-income Americans away from free tax-filing services.
- More than [150,000 individual arbitration claims](#) had also been filed against the company "by people seeking money back after they paid for software that, they said, should have been free."
- A recent Congressional investigation found that tax prep companies have [shared taxpayers' personal financial information](#) with Meta, Google, and other tech firms in potential violation of taxpayer privacy laws.