



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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June 3, 2014

Julia Pierson
Director
U.S. Secret Service
245 Murray Drive, SW
Building 410
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Director Pierson:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to bring to your attention our serious concern over recent cases of identity theft against physicians. There have been reports that thousands of physicians and other health care professionals across the country have been the victims of tax refund fraud during this year's tax filing period. Apparently, the perpetrators of this fraud obtained physicians' Social Security numbers and other identifying information, which were subsequently used to fill out and file fraudulent tax returns in their names seeking refunds.

As you can imagine, these recent cases have created a great deal of consternation within the physician community. AMA staff has discussed this matter with senior officials from the Internal Revenue Service and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which are looking into these identity theft cases. We urge the Secret Service to look into this as well if you are not already doing so. While we are aware that identity theft is a perennial problem, we have never received physician identity theft reports of this volume and scope. The sheer number of incidents suggests to us that these were not isolated individual cases, and we believe that efforts must be made to find the source of the breach of physician Social Security numbers. We want to ensure that there are no further cases of identity theft targeted at physicians.

Thank you for your consideration. The AMA would be happy to assist you in any way to get to the bottom of this matter and to get information out to the physician community. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Margaret Garikes, Director of Federal Affairs, at margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org or at 202-789-7409.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD