



# **NEWS RELEASE**

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OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Attorney General Alan Wilson Statement on IRS's Admitted Targeting of Groups Seeking Tax-Exempt Status**

COLUMBIA, SC – Attorney General Alan Wilson issued the following statement regarding the IRS's admitted targeting of groups seeking tax-exempt status:

***“It is deeply troubling that the Internal Revenue Service targeted organizations and individuals based on their political beliefs. Our freedom of speech and our equal protection under the law are the most basic tenets of our Republic. Both were ignored when the IRS unnecessarily harassed and audited individuals and organizations based on their name, not their paperwork.”***

“This matter merits the highest level of scrutiny to investigate the serious misconduct and admitted targeting of groups seeking tax-exempt status by the IRS.

***“Reports indicate at least one South Carolina organization was targeted. To ensure the ongoing federal criminal investigation properly considers whether other South Carolinians were harmed, I encourage any 501(c) (4) organization in South Carolina who believes it was wrongfully targeted by the IRS based on its constitutionally protected beliefs to contact the South Carolina Attorney General’s office. Once gathered, my office will provide this information to the appropriate authority. It is important to determine whether other South Carolinians had their legal rights violated and to protect our most basic freedoms.”***