One-pager

DRAFT

FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PROCEDURES IMPROVEMENTS ACT

This bill is needed to improve the Federal government's ability to collect the billions of dollars owed to the United States on civil and criminal debts. It corrects unforeseen technical problems, responds to adverse court decisions, and makes other changes in the law to promote efficiency and uniformity in the debt collection process. The bill:

* Provides improved tools to collect debts owed to the United States:
    * $49.9 billion reported delinquent on civil debt
    * Over $5 billion owed on fines and restitution to victims of crime
* Eliminates impediments to the enforcement of criminal monetary penalties, and strengthens the rights of victims of crime.
* Clarifies that the United States may enforce victim restitution rights under the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act.
* Extends the time for undoing collusive transfers of property when made to avoid paying criminal fines and restitution. (Makes the property available to pay the debt.)
* Clarifies the court's authority to prevent the debtor from evading, hindering or delaying debt collection efforts by the United States.
* Authorizes injunctive relief to prevent dissipation of the debtor's assets while a debt to the United States remains unpaid.
* Assists in stopping Federal payments and privileges (such as small business loans, hunting licenses) to debtors with outstanding Federal civil and criminal judgments.
* Eliminates impediments to seizure of wages and bank accounts while preserving the debtor's extensive due process rights.
* Assists in determining a debtor's ability to pay a judgment through disclosure of grand jury financial information and better access to other financial information at the time of conviction and after judgment is entered.
* Provides nationwide standards for property that civil debtors can protect from seizure.
* Eliminates the need to sue student loan debtors twice before enforcing collection.