

To: U.S. Congress, IRS

The Church of Scientology was founded in the early 1950s, and quickly gained and lost its tax-exempt status as a religion. The IRS ruled that the system of "fixed donations" and the services constituted a for-profit venture, and was therefore taxable. This judgment was only overturned after the Church of Scientology filed more than 2,000 lawsuits against the IRS. This new agreement is clearly superior to those of all other religious organizations in the United States, despite the fact that Scientology charges members for courses and information about their own religion, generating massive profits for the organization.

The Church of Scientology's tax-exempt status is in direct violation of the 'Establishment Clause'. This clause, which is part of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." One of the vital aspects to this clause's interpretation includes an explicit prohibition against the establishment of any law giving preference to one religion over another. In other words, if one specific church is going to receive a specific benefit, then that same benefit must be freely given to all other faiths as well. If that can't be achieved, then no individual church should receive such preferential treatment, lest the law or governmental agency find itself in violation of the Constitution.

It is the belief of thousands of Americans that the Church of Scientology is a dangerous, for-profit organization. Thousands of accusations of abuse have been leveled against the church, both domestically and internationally, and the organization has been convicted of fraud and manslaughter in some countries. Such an organization does not deserve the same tax breaks as other religions, and it certainly does not deserve better ones.

NY Times: The Shadowy Story Behind Scientology's Tax-Exempt Status
<http://www.lermanet.com/scientologynews/nytimes/nyt-irs-030997.htm>

NY Times: Scientologists' Tax Break Cited in Suit Against IRS
<http://tinyurl.com/bjja2v>

AP: LA Couple Seeks Same Religious Tax Break as Scientologists
<http://www.lermanet2.com/scientologynews/ap-tax-trial-110904.htm>

San Francisco Chronicle: Court Case Poses Challenge to Scientology Tax Break
<http://www.rickross.com/reference/scientology/scien501.html>

LA Times: Couple Lose Bid for Tax Refund Tied to Tuition
<http://www.lermanet.com/scientologynews/latimes/lat-jewishtax-013002.html>

Citizen's Briefing Book Portal: Revoke Scientology' Tax-Exempt Status
<http://tinyurl.com/884uca>

