

**Statement from Representative Nadler regarding progress on international student tax issues:**

After hearing from representatives of Graduate Workers of Columbia-UAW, as well as the Columbia administration, recently, I have taken a number of steps to help address concerns raised due to reporting errors by the university to the IRS on international student tax withholding for 2014. I would like to report on progress being made.

As background, due to misreporting by a company tasked to handle the university's tax filings, many international research and teaching assistants, who had been expecting tax refunds for 2014, received notices from the IRS stating that they instead owed up to thousands of dollars with a due date as early as March 7.

After my intervention, as well as more than 1,000 RAs and TAs signing a petition urging Columbia to do better in its response, I am happy to report that the University has now communicated much more clear advice to RAs and TAs about how to handle the situation.

Their advice [can be found on a new website](#), which also includes a letter sent to the IRS from Provost Coatsworth pointing out that the individuals affected by this error should not be blamed for the university's mistake. I have communicated this message to the IRS as well.

It is unfortunate that this error caused great distress and distracted so many of these employees from performing the critical research and teaching that makes Columbia the pride of New York City and a world-renowned university. However, I want to commend Columbia University for being responsive to my requests and the outpouring of concern from over 1,000 RAs and TAs through GWC-UAW and hope that they behave in a similar good-faith manner in response to a majority vote for representation in collective bargaining.

I will continue to urge the University to take steps ensuring that such errors do not occur in the future. I will also continue to monitor this situation, as it not only affects those at Columbia, but thousands of others at roughly 20 other universities across the US whose software made the same error.

