

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. RaeAnn Kelsch's Statement Regarding Her Family's Taxes

On Tuesday of this week I became aware that a state tax lien had been filed against my husband Tom and I. Since then I have learned that we had not filed federal or state income tax returns for the years 2004 thru 2009. This revelation was in addition to my learning late last year that we had failed to keep our property taxes current.

The simple truth is that our family has been in a bad place for some time.

In 2005, my brother committed suicide and my dad died a year later. Then, Tom and his sister were diagnosed with late stage cancer. His sister died in 2010. Later that year, Tom's dad was also diagnosed with cancer.

Because of his health issues, Tom has been unable to work full-time and earn a living. And through all of this, Tom felt he needed to carry the weight of the world on his shoulders and we were all too willing to let him. After all, Tom has always been the rock of this family. As a result of our family's health problems and our deteriorating financial situation, Tom fell into a serious and, until recently, undiagnosed state of depression.

Despite my repeated questions about our finances, Tom couldn't bring himself to tell me the true state of our affairs. I know I should have been more aggressive in my pursuit of the truth, especially after I found out about our outstanding property tax bill, but I believed my husband when he said everything was OK.

Today, I know better. Tom and I are working through our marital problems. Tom continues to undergo treatment for cancer and is seeking help for his depression. Our property taxes have been paid in full. All 2010 state and federal income tax returns have been filed and paid and our 2011 taxes will also be filed and paid. And I am working with our accountant, the state and the IRS to determine how much we owe in addition to what was withheld from our paychecks for those years we didn't file and to get the balance paid as soon as possible.

While my husband was the person in our family who took care of managing our taxes, I accept full responsibility. Tom and I are working through this difficult time in our marriage and our finances. I apologize to those we have disappointed and I assure you we will make this right.

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