

The Republicans are seeking to defund the US tax author...

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:01 am

The Republicans in the US House of Representatives took a long time to agree on a Speaker last week. But having done so, they got down to addressing what they see as their business priorities. And as it turned out, that priority is defunding the US Internal Revenue Service (the IRS), which is the US federal tax authority.

Last year Biden gave the IRS £80 billion of new funding. The aim was to provide 87,000 new tax investigators, targeted solely on the wealthiest Americans. There was also a plan to update the IT used by the IRS, which is decades old. The object was, of course, to raise more revenue when the government was spending billions supporting the US economy. And so, as the [Mail reports](#), the Republicans voted to cancel almost all this spend.

Republicans have made this a priority. They told their supporters the IRS was going to target low income America. That was never the plan. But they also made clear that they objected to the idea of more money being collected, *per se*. And in reality their legislation is aimed to appease their backers in wealthy America, who presumably want to continue their tax abuse.

The good news is that this law has almost no chance of passing the Democrat controlled Senate, so the existing law stays in place.

The significance is that it shows where the Republicans want to go. Anything that supports the wealthy against the government and so against the people of the US is good with them.

Why note this? Because anything the Republicans do the Tories seem anxious to copy. Tory stances on migration, austerity and much else are Republican inspired. I expect this one to be on their agenda soon. Hatred of the state is the one thing all on the far-right now seem to have in common.