

Race, Ignorance, Racism

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Not spending millions more to hire and train swarms of Internal Revenue Service agents to poke, audit, investigate and squeeze more tax dollars from wealthier Americans would be — you knew this was coming — *racist*.

That's the new argument for siccing the IRS on wealthier Americans; they're more likely to be white than black.

"The federal government is losing billions in unpaid taxes," informs a *Washington Post* headline, "in part due to racial disparities in the tax code."

What racially based inequalities, precisely?

This statewide policy designed to hurt so many individual students — and to help none — is predicated on closing a racial gap in math performance. By knee-capping the higher performing students of all races.*

"The inequity rests on long-established tax breaks that favor *White Americans over Black Americans* in three areas — marriage, homeownership and retirement, according to Dorothy A. Brown, an Emory University law professor," writes *Post* columnist Joe Davidson. Because, for instance, "White people . . . are much more likely to be homeowners," and more likely than blacks "to work



for companies that offer tax favored retirement plans."

Davidson offered no further discussion of marriage.

One can argue for or against hiring more IRS agents. (I'm against.) But to calculate the merits based on the skin color of the people most likely to be investigated is . . . *racist*.

Where does such skewed logic lead?

"The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is moving to eliminate all accelerated math options prior to 11th grade," *Fox News* reports, "effectively keeping higher-achieving students from advancing as they usually would in the school system."

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So which is worse? That it's a human rights violation . . . or that it is so incredibly stupid?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* As a candidate in this year's Virginia House elections explained to *The Federalist*, the proposed statewide policy "is incredibly belittling, arrogant, and racist in assuming that children of color cannot reach advanced classes in math."