



# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**  
**February 22, 2010**

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## **Statement of NTEU President Colleen M. Kelley**

Sen. Brown appears not to understand that Andrew Joseph Stack took the life of a long-time, dedicated IRS employee when he drove his plane into the side of a building housing the IRS in Austin. Rather than condemn the action that has devastated a family and horrified IRS employees across the country Sen. Brown chose to use a media interview to say that the mindset of the pilot is the same mindset of the people who supported him during his campaign—a mindset he understands. Sen. Brown missed an opportunity to denounce these actions and the thinking that might produce similar actions; he missed an opportunity to express sorrow over the death of Vernon Hunter; and he missed an opportunity to support federal employees who are simply doing the jobs that our country has asked them to do.

I believe that Sen. Brown should rethink his reaction to the tragic events that took place in Austin last week. He did a disservice to IRS employees and all federal employees in downplaying this senseless act of violence. I would hope that Sen. Brown would make clear that he supports the federal workforce and will use his position in the U.S. Senate to do everything he can to make sure that their safety is a top priority for our government.