

*Congress of the United States*  
*Washington, D. C. 20515*  
May 1, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write today urging the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to redouble its efforts to make Economic Impact Payments available to the most vulnerable populations—including those without access to the internet who cannot file a tax return electronically. We appreciate your decision to ensure that Social Security retirement and disability beneficiaries, Supplemental Security Income recipients, and veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefits can receive these payments automatically without filing a tax return. These course corrections were the right move.

The coronavirus public health emergency has come at a great cost to many Americans, but undoubtedly has had a disproportionate impact on low-income families, seniors, rural communities, and communities of color. To bring much needed economic relief to these populations, on a bipartisan basis, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which authorized direct cash assistance to be sent to most Americans.

To the credit of both the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in just a matter of a few short weeks, American taxpayers are already receiving their Economic Impact Payments in their checking accounts. While these efforts deserve recognition, the CARES Act also requires that Treasury coordinate with other federal agencies to conduct a public awareness campaign to ensure individuals who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 are aware of their eligibility for the payment. As you conduct this public awareness campaign, we urge you to address the unique challenges that low-income and rural Americans may face in filing a tax return online.

The Federal Communications Commission's 2019 annual Broadband Deployment Report found that more than 21 million Americans are without access to high-speed internet. Due to gaps in our nation's broadband maps, the number of Americans who lack adequate broadband coverage is likely much higher. Furthermore, a 2019 Pew Research Survey found that 50 percent of non-broadband users cite cost as a reason they do not have broadband at home. If these Americans are not eligible to receive an automatic payment, they face a significant barrier in their ability to file a simple tax return online. Due to current social distancing guidelines, enlisting the help of a family member or friend without internet access is not a feasible option for these individuals.

Treasury must continue to focus on ensuring that those who need this assistance the most can receive their Economic Impact Payment as soon as possible. We urge you to leverage the resources and information at your disposal or partner with the necessary federal agencies to get this relief into the hands of those who need it the most, including Americans who do not have internet access. Time is of the essence and we hope that you will act quickly and decisively in addressing our concerns. We look forward to your response and we will continue working to

address the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities.

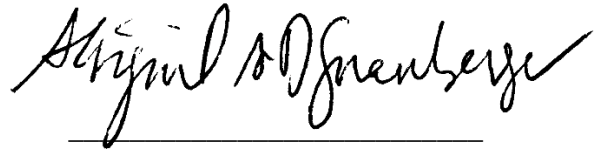
Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

**Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.**  
Member of Congress

**Grace F. Napolitano**  
Member of Congress

**Andre Carson**  
Member of Congress

**Adriano Espaillat**  
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**Alan Lowenthal**  
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Member of Congress

**Pramila Jayapal**  
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**Rick Larsen**  
Member of Congress

**Vicente Gonzalez**  
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**Alcee L. Hastings**  
Member of Congress

**Jesús G. "Chuy" García**  
Member of Congress

**Salud O. Carbajal**  
Member of Congress

**Marcy Kaptur**  
Member of Congress

**Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Member of Congress

**Jahana Hayes**  
Member of Congress

**Sheila Jackson Lee**  
Member of Congress

**James P. McGovern**  
Member of Congress

**Mary Gay Scanlon**  
Member of Congress

**Jan Schakowsky**  
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**Nydia M. Velázquez**  
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**Tim Ryan**  
Member of Congress

**Rashida Tlaib**  
Member of Congress

**Steve Cohen**  
Member of Congress

**Barbara Lee**  
Member of Congress

**Lucille Roybal-Allard**  
Member of Congress

**Joseph P. Kennedy, III**  
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**Jim Costa**  
Member of Congress

**Yvette D. Clarke**  
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**Bill Foster**  
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**Brenda L. Lawrence**  
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**Nanette Diaz Barragán**  
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**Derek Kilmer**  
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**Eddie Bernice Johnson**  
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**Suzanne Bonamici**  
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**Grace Meng**  
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**Jared Huffman**  
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**Andy Levin**  
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**Adam Smith**  
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**David N. Cicilline**  
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**Conor Lamb**  
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**Rosa L. DeLauro**  
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**Ro Khanna**  
Member of Congress

**John B. Larson**  
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**Maxine Waters**  
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**Mark Pocan**  
Member of Congress

**Sylvia R. Garcia**  
Member of Congress

**Josh Harder**  
Member of Congress

**Steven Horsford**  
Member of Congress