

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 23, 2020

Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Ave NW,  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

We write to request the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extend its deadlines to allow families with dependents to receive the full amount of their Economic Impact Payments. It is imperative that these families have the complete payments that the CARES Act intended to help alleviate some of the financial burdens this unprecedented crisis has born on their lives.

According to recent reporting, approximately one million children may be deprived of the \$500 payment that was intended to assist families in the CARES Act if they fail to complete an online form by noon yesterday, April 22, 2020.<sup>[1]</sup> Just three days ago the IRS sent out a “special alert” notifying the public of this impending deadline, which we are confident too many households have not been able to meet.<sup>[2]</sup> This notice required Social Security recipients and retirees caring for children to complete an online form, under a seemingly unreasonable deadline and with varying degrees of technical difficulties, which may well be a hardship for families during this pandemic. Many of these families have not historically been required to complete a tax filing. If they missed this deadline they will be forced to wait until next year to receive this payment. With the administrative delays associated with processing ordinary payments, this will be a harsh penalty for these citizens. The average cost of raising a child in this country is \$245,000<sup>[3]</sup>, making the existing \$500 payment a mere drop in the bucket. If we fail to get this lifeline to these children, we will be depriving them of the food and sustenance they need to make it through this crisis.

This cohort of constituents disproportionately represent those most vulnerable to the coronavirus and, consistent with available guidance and best practices, every effort should be made to assist

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/irs-deadlines-threaten-stimulus-payments-for-1-million-dependents>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/ssa-rrb-recipients-with-eligible-children-need-to-act-by-wednesday-to-quickly-add-money-to-their-automatic-economic-impact-payment-irs-asks-for-help-in-the-plus-500-push>

<sup>[3]</sup> [https://www.morganstanley.com/articles/little-geniuses-big-dreams?cid=ppc-71700000045240996:700000001822702:58700004654357395:p39240799739&msclkid=5350404f6d6f1150cc861eef03cc11a3&gclid=CLalqlS4\\_OgCFcXktQod\\_fYN9A&gclidsrc=ds](https://www.morganstanley.com/articles/little-geniuses-big-dreams?cid=ppc-71700000045240996:700000001822702:58700004654357395:p39240799739&msclkid=5350404f6d6f1150cc861eef03cc11a3&gclid=CLalqlS4_OgCFcXktQod_fYN9A&gclidsrc=ds)

these families. We urge IRS to extend these deadlines to better support these families in these perilous times as our country works to slow the spread of this deadly virus.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

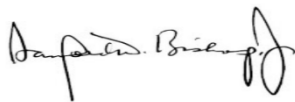
Sincerely,



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Michael Kelly  
Member of Congress



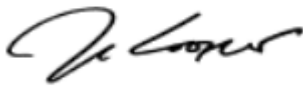
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



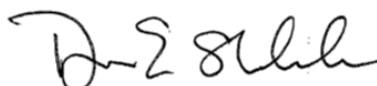
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



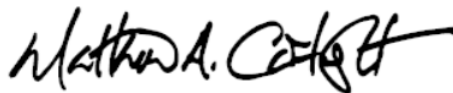
Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
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Matt Cartwright  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Jamie Raskin  
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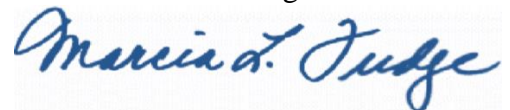
Tim Ryan  
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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Member of Congress



Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
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Jennifer Wexton  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Elaine G. Luria  
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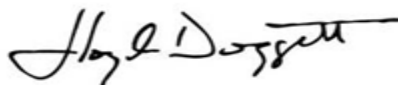
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



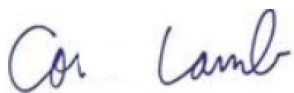
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



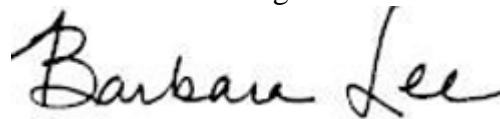
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



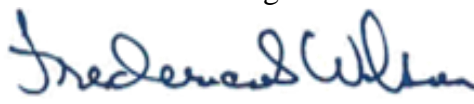
Bobby L. Rush  
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Abigail Spanberger  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Camacho Kili Sablan  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



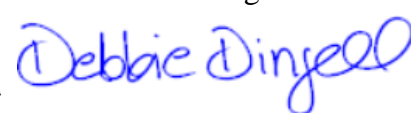
Michael Bost  
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Marc Veasey  
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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress