

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

January 11, 2021

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Ave NS  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

We appreciate your work to quickly get a second round of Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) out to the American people. However, we write to express concern about the IRS's decision to require people who have not received their EIP to wait until they file their 2020 taxes. Several of our constituents have reached out to raise these concerns as well. This decision by the IRS adds bureaucratic hurdles that make access to these payments difficult and leaves people with no option to access financial relief to address immediate financial obligations. Our constituents are entitled to receive these direct payments immediately. Instead, they have been asked to delay receiving these payments by at least several weeks until they receive proper tax documents, file their taxes, and receive payment. In addition, the IRS is advising Americans to file their taxes electronically to receive their EIP. Meanwhile, many Americans do not have the resources to file their taxes if being asked to do so electronically. At a time when millions of Americans are financially vulnerable and need immediate help due to the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, it is vital that the IRS does everything in its power to get these payments out to the people who need them most without delay.

On December 21, 2020, Congress passed the latest COVID-19 relief package, which included \$600 direct payments to nearly all Americans. These direct payments have garnered bipartisan support because they are one of the quickest ways to get financial relief directly into the pockets of the American people. Unfortunately, the IRS's decision to direct people who have not received their EIPs to wait to file their 2020 taxes would delay getting these checks out to people as soon as possible. Further, the IRS is still processing 2019 tax returns, and we are concerned that this backlog could further delay taxpayers from receiving their second EIP if they wait to receive their direct payment through their 2020 tax return.

Given the financial urgency that millions of Americans are currently facing during a global health pandemic, we urge the IRS provide Americans options to submit the direct payment information directly to the IRS, whether by submitting their bank information through a secure portal, or by submitting their mailing address so that they may receive a check in the mail. Additionally, we respectfully request that the IRS report recommendations to Congress to

improve the accessibility of EIPs for future rounds of these direct payments no later than Friday, January 29, 2021.

People need financial relief now, and we must act swiftly to get these checks into the hands of people who need them most.

Sincerely,

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress

Ed Case  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

David Price  
Member of Congress

Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Andrew Garbarino  
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress