

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

April 3, 2020

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

The Honorable Andrew Saul
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Wilkie, and Commissioner Saul:

We appreciate the swift attention you gave to our April 1st letter urging the Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) to automatically send rebates to Social Security retirement and disability beneficiaries that have not filed a tax return. Your decision will make receiving the rebate easier and faster for millions of seniors and people with disabilities across the country. Thank you.

Today, we write requesting that you again use your authority to provide stimulus payments automatically to recipients of benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Supplemental Security Income program, without requiring them to file a tax return. This is the fastest, most-effective way to provide desperately needed help to more than 3 million low-income veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Treasury wisely decided to use its authority to take this step with regard to recipients of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits. Treasury can also make automatic payments to low-income veterans receiving VA benefits and very low-income seniors and people with disabilities receiving SSI. These are two groups with significant numbers of non-filers for whom the federal government has the data necessary to deliver the payments automatically — and they deserve the same treatment as Social Security recipients.

The process for getting SSI and VA beneficiaries payments would mirror the process that it is using for seniors and people with disabilities receiving Social Security: Treasury can match its data against the Social Security Administration’s and the Department of Veterans Affairs’ data to determine those SSI and veterans beneficiaries who aren’t part of a tax filing unit and then issue them automatic payments for the amounts which Congress intended them to receive. Treasury

should not require people with disabilities, low-income seniors, and veterans to file a form to receive stimulus payments when the federal government already has the information it needs.

The law also requires Treasury to conduct a public awareness campaign in coordination with other federal agencies to ensure those who don't typically file a tax return receive these stimulus rebates. Please share information with us about your plans to design and implement this awareness campaign in a timely manner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator Sherrod Brown

Senator Michael F. Bennet

Senator Tammy Baldwin

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Thomas R. Carper

Senator Christopher A. Coons

Senator Tammy Duckworth

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Kamala D. Harris

Senator Mazie Hirono

Senator Tim Kaine

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Senator Joe Manchin III

Senator Robert Menendez

Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley

Senator Gary C. Peters

Senator Jacky Rosen

Senator Brian Schatz

Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Margaret Wood Hassan

Senator Cory A. Booker

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Senator Richard J. Durbin

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Senator Martin Heinrich

Senator Doug Jones

Senator Angus S. King, Jr.

Senator Patrick Leahy

Senator Edward J. Markey

Senator Patty Murray

Senator Christopher S. Murphy

Senator Jack Reed

Senator Bernard Sanders

Senator Charles E. Schumer

Senator Kyrsten Sinema

Senator Tina Smith

Senator Jon Tester

Senator Chris Van Hollen

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Ron Wyden

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Tom Udall

Senator Mark R. Warner

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse