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April 20, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We write today urging the Department of Treasury to provide flexibility on the recently-announced April 22, 2020 deadline for veterans and survivors with dependents to claim their full Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act payments. Our nation's veterans and survivors should not face unnecessary barriers to accessing the appropriate amount of funding available to them under the CARES Act.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) only recently created a web portal for non-filers to input information that would allow the IRS to generate a payment directly into non-filers' bank accounts. As a result, many veterans and survivors may not yet even know that this tool is available or will not have yet had the opportunity to avail themselves of this opportunity. And while this web portal was a step in the right direction, we are concerned that many affected veterans and survivors will not make the deadline because they do not have internet access or a computer at home to submit their information through the new portal. This may force veterans or survivors out of their homes, significantly increasing their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Last Friday, the IRS and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced an automatic payment would be forthcoming for certain VA beneficiaries but no timeframe for receipt of a payment was provided. Therefore, the most expedient way for a VA beneficiary to receive a payment may be through the web portal. Given the trying financial circumstances many individuals now find themselves in, we believe it is necessary for Americans, and specifically veterans and their survivors, to have more time to utilize the tool the IRS has provided. We appreciate the importance of getting these payments to eligible Americans as quickly as possible, but non-filers should not be disadvantaged by a deadline set by the IRS just days before. The IRS should ensure that these beneficiaries receive their full payment, even if that means sending a second payment once they have used the web portal to provide information about their dependents.

We appreciate your work to ensure our nation's veterans and their survivors receive the CARES Act payment. We ask that you take another important step and modify the April 22, 2020 deadline for them to utilize the web portal.

Sincerely,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran
Chairman

Jon Tester

Jon Tester
Ranking Member