

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was a bipartisan bill whose goal was to send critical funding for Americans to pay basic bills during the pandemic. To underscore that objective, our offices ask the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure every American receives their full Economic Impact Payment (EIP) this calendar year. While we recognize the unprecedented endeavor the IRS has been tasked with completing, countless families in our districts desperately need this funding. It is imperative EIPs are properly dispersed as outlined in the CARES Act and done so in the most timely and efficient manner. Our offices suggest the following steps for a more efficient and swift dispersal of EIP.

First, the IRS should promptly issue supplementary payments to Americans whose recently-filed 2019 returns make them eligible for larger EIPs. The initial advice given by your agency stated the filing of a 2019 tax return would be the most reliable way for individuals and families to receive their EIP. However, the IRS recently clarified that, if it used an individual's 2018 tax return to determine eligibility (or lack thereof) when the EIP was scheduled in the spring, the IRS would not reissue a payment when that individual subsequently filed a 2019 tax return. Americans who qualify for larger payments based on their timely-filed 2019 return are being told that they must wait until 2021 to receive their full EIP amount. In addition, because the IRS shut down processing centers in March for health and safety reasons, those constituents who filed a paper tax return early in the filing season faced a months-long backlog in processing their 2019 tax return, meaning that, despite their best efforts to provide the IRS more recent information, their EIP eligibility was calculated based on an older return. In short, constituents who have complied with tax deadlines and followed IRS guidance should not be penalized and forced to wait until next year for emergency assistance they desperately need. The IRS has the information it needs to make supplemental payments now.

Second, the agency can provide improved assistance to the public and to caseworkers in Congressional offices who are working hard to answer requests from constituents. We believe this could alleviate many of the issues our constituents are facing. Currently, it can take as much as nine weeks to receive a response to questions sent to the Congressional inquiry inbox. In many situations, these responses do not address the issue constituents are facing and do not result

in the constituent obtaining clarity on their EIP. A dedicated telephone line for Congressional staffers would streamline cases and promote more efficient communication.

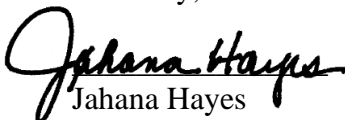
Finally, the IRS should increase the number of trained staff who can provide account updates to constituents when they call the IRS EIP phone line. Currently, constituents report they are facing hours-long wait times to speak to a live representative, only to find out the representative cannot assist them with their account. Increasing the number of IRS staff who can provide account-specific assistance would immediately help constituents. These trained individuals could also be available to speak to caseworkers through the Congressional EIP phone line outlined above.

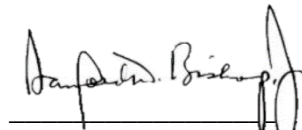
Our offices and your agency share the common goal of providing the American people the funds they are entitled to under the CARES Act. Our staff are ready to work with your staff to meet the goals outlined. Please see us as a resource. We urge your agency to expand Congressional assistance with EIP inquiries and to implement the suggestions above.

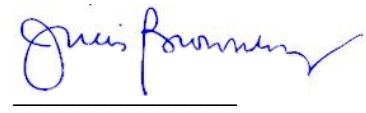
Working together we can meet the needs of the American public during this unprecedented time.

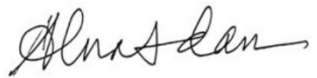
Thank you for your timely attention to these matters.


Sincerely,



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

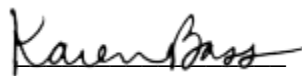

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



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



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

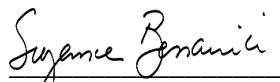

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Anthony G. Brown
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André Carson
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Ed Case
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Sean Casten

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Judy Chu

Judy Chu
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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
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Katherine M. Clark

Katherine Clark
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Yvette D. Clarke

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Jason Crow

Jason Crow
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Henry Cuellar

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Rosa L. DeLauro

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Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
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Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans
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Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge

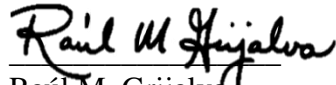
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Ruben Gallego


Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

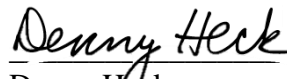

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

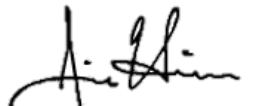

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

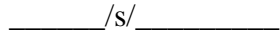

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

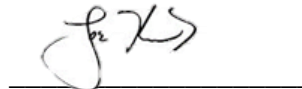

Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Jim Himes
Member of Congress

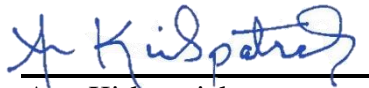

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

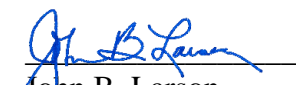

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

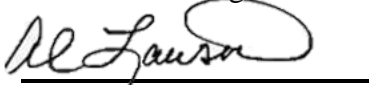

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

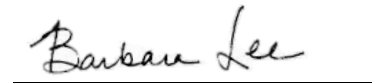

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

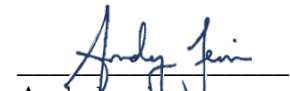

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

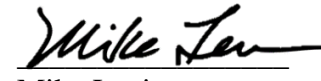

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

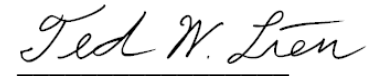

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

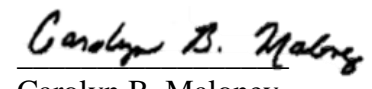

Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress


Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

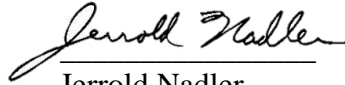

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



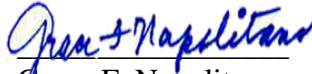
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



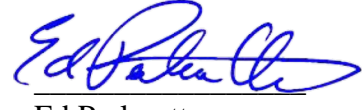
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



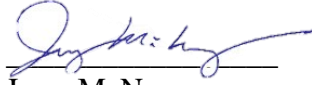
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



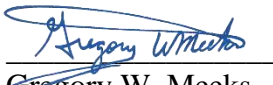
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



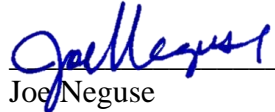
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



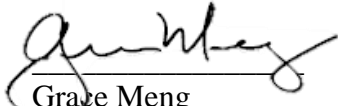
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



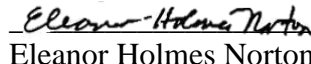
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



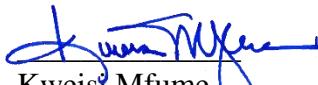
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



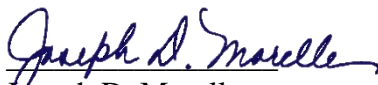
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



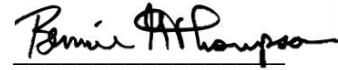
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



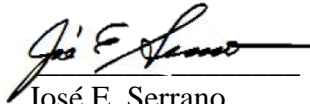
David Scott
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



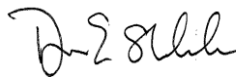
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



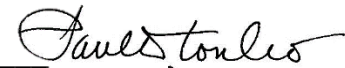
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



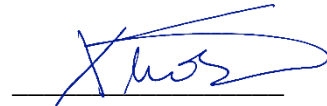
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



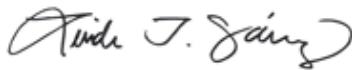
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress



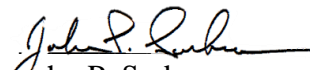
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



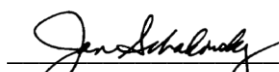
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



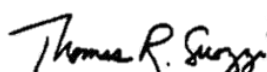
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



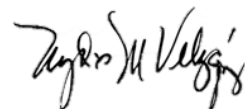
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



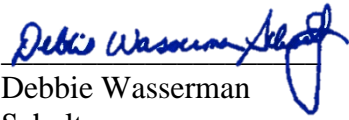
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



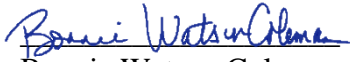
Debbie Wasserman
Schultz
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress