

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

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

The Honorable Andrew Saul
Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Wilkie, Commissioner Rettig, and Commissioner Saul:

We write to urge the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Social Security Administration to work together and with relevant federal partners to eliminate the barriers certain seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans still face in accessing the economic impact payments established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. During this time of crisis, America's seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans should not be asked to navigate bureaucratic hurdles to receive a rebate they are entitled to.

We are encouraged by the April 1st IRS guidance indicating that seniors and individuals with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits will receive their economic payments automatically instead of having to file a tax return. Although this is certainly a step in the right direction, it leaves out our nation's veterans who receive pensions from Veterans Affairs and lower-income seniors and individuals with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Requiring veterans and SSI recipients to file a tax return in order to receive their stimulus payment adds an additional burden on those most vulnerable to this pandemic and increases the risk they will not receive these much-needed payments. It also makes these individuals more vulnerable to scammers who will try to steal their personal information and hard-earned savings in exchange for helping them access their economic impact payments.

Our nation's veterans and SSI recipients deserve better. We urge you to continue to work together to allow these individuals to receive their economic impact payment automatically.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator