

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

March 22, 2021

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

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

Dear Commissioner Rettig and Commissioner Saul:

As Chairs of the Committee and Subcommittees with jurisdiction over the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), we write to express our concern about the reported delays in sending automatic stimulus payments to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries, along with Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) and Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiaries.

Over the past year, the IRS and SSA have worked closely together to ensure that the previous rounds of direct payments were paid promptly and automatically to these beneficiaries, even if they do not normally have a tax return filing requirement because they fall below the income threshold for filing. These efforts have ensured the immediate, seamless delivery of stimulus payments to millions of retirees and people with disabilities.

Since the American Rescue Plan Act was enacted on March 11, the IRS has already delivered about 90 million payments. However, we were alarmed to learn recently that most Social Security, SSI, RRB, and VA beneficiaries who are not required to file a tax return have not yet received their payments and that the IRS is unable to provide an expected timeline for these payments. The American Rescue Plan was intended to provide much-needed economic stimulus and assistance to people across the country – immediately – and we are counting on your agencies to ensure that beneficiaries are not left behind in the seamless delivery of those payments. Some of our most vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities, including veterans who served our country with honor, are unable to pay for basic necessities while they wait for their overdue payments.

We urge the IRS and SSA to move with all deliberate speed to quickly issue these payments to Social Security and SSI beneficiaries – and we urge the IRS to work with the RRB and VA to pay those beneficiaries expeditiously as well. We ask that you update us on your timeline for these payments by Friday, March 26.

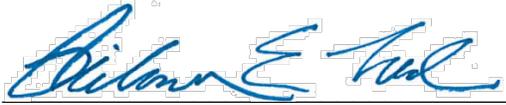
Commissioner Rettig and Commissioner Saul

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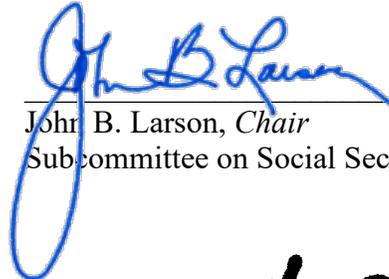
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Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal, *Chair*
Committee on Ways and Means



John B. Larson, *Chair*
Subcommittee on Social Security



Bill Pascrell, Jr., *Chair*
Subcommittee on Oversight



Danny K. Davis, *Chair*
Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support