

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary DeVos, and Commissioner Rettig,

We write today regarding concerns we have heard from Americans abroad in implementation of the CARES Act. Coronavirus is a global pandemic; and as such, thousands of Americans living abroad also face economic hardship and need assistance provided under the CARES Act. We ask that you ensure they can access necessary relief by making the technical fixes outlined below.

Americans abroad whose income levels fall below the filing threshold have attempted to use the “Non-Filers: Enter Information Here” tool online published by the IRS. While we are pleased that it accommodates taxpayers with foreign addresses, it does not enable a user to provide a bank account for a non-U.S. bank, hindering their ability to receive the Economic Impact Payments via direct deposit. It is critical that direct deposit is available, as postal service around the world has experienced service disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic. We ask that you modify the online tool to include a field for bank accounts with non-U.S. banks and a field for non-U.S. phone numbers, as many non-U.S. phone numbers have more than ten digits.

We also ask that these features be included in the “Get My Payment” tool for those American taxpayers who have filed but do not have direct deposit information recorded with the IRS. Again, the tool anticipates use by Americans with non-U.S. residential addresses, because in the taxpayer information screen the system notes that the zip code is “required, except for countries without a zip or post code.” Unfortunately, the tool will not let the user advance to the next screen without providing a zip code. We ask that you correct the zip code input requirements and ensure that subsequent screens also allow for non-U.S. bank information.

The Federal Student Loan borrower forbearance granted in the CARES Act continues to be inaccessible for Americans abroad who cannot call the Federal Student Loan Servicer toll-free numbers from outside the United States. We ask that Treasury collaborate with the Department of Education to provide a phone number or electronic mechanism that Federal Student Loan

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Borrowers abroad can use to communicate their intention to suspend loan payments for 60 days, as provided by the CARES Act.

The CARES Act was clear in its intention to include eligible Americans living abroad. The IRS tools for facilitating the delivery of the Economic Impact Payments invite use by aid-eligible citizens living outside the United States. We understand the urgency with which you have been directed to make these tools and resources available, but it is critical that they are fixed expeditiously as well. We urge you to ensure these glitches are corrected so that eligible Americans living abroad can access much needed relief. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress