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## United States Senate

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

April 21, 2020

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

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

Thank you for working to eliminate barriers for certain seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans attempting to obtain the economic impact payments established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I now urge the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure that these federal beneficiaries are able to continue using the IRS online non-filers tool to seek stimulus payments for their qualifying child dependents past April 22, 2020, without having to wait until next year.

I have been closely following implementation of the CARES Act. Chief among the programs established by this law are the economic impact payments that guarantee qualifying Americans up to \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 per couple filing jointly, and \$500 for eligible child dependents. Together, Congress and your agencies have worked to dismantle barriers for federal beneficiaries of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement, and Compensation and Pension (C&P) payments through the Veterans Administration. I appreciate your efforts to provide and support online tools so non-filing beneficiaries can get timely access to their payments. These populations make up a significant proportion of Arizona's most vulnerable households, which are most likely to use this assistance to pay next month's rent, their prescription drug costs, or the next grocery bill.

Despite this work, I was alarmed by a late announcement from the IRS on April 20, 2020, which stated that certain non-filing federal beneficiaries with qualifying dependents would need to take additional steps online in order to secure their \$500-per-child stimulus payment this year. The announcement requires these groups to enter their qualifying child's information into the non-filer online tool by 12pm EST on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, or face long delays. While the announcement stated that SSI and C&P veterans had a bit longer to take this additional step, there was no guidance on actual timing.

These federal beneficiaries shouldn't have to wait until they file their 2020 tax returns in 2021 to obtain their \$500 dependent payment if they miss this window. Having less than three days'

notice to use a new online tool will certainly cause thousands of Arizona beneficiaries to miss their \$500 dependent payment this year. Giving Arizona's most vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities less than three days is incredibly unfair and contrary to our mission of serving Americans during this pandemic.

I understand the public and congressional pressure on your agencies to get the economic impact payments out quickly. I also do not want to delay federal beneficiaries from receiving their own payments. Instead of rushing this process, however, I ask that the Treasury and IRS consider keeping the non-filers online tool open past April 22 and send out the \$500 dependent checks on a rolling basis, or select a later deadline.

Thank you for working with Congress to ensure that no qualified taxpayer or eligible beneficiary of these economic impact payments is left behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyrsten Sinema", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20420

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