



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of Treasury  
16US Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Andrew Saul  
Commissioner of Social Security Administration  
US Social Security Administration  
1300 D Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
US Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Commissioner Saul, and Secretary Wilkie:

The undersigned organizations, which are members and allies of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), write in response to your recently announced deadline for Social Security beneficiaries to file taxes or utilize the new web tool to claim economic impact payments for child dependents under the age of 17 or wait until 2021 to claim the payments. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. We represent the parents with disabilities receiving Social Security Disability Insurance who must now meet this deadline, along with the disabled widows and widowers with children and the retiree grandparents who have disabilities or have adopted grandchildren with disabilities.

We are extremely concerned by the unexpected announcement of this very short deadline. Announcing a Wednesday deadline on a Monday afternoon is simply put, not enough time. Media reports that the deadline is noon on Wednesday (with the time zone unspecified) add to the urgency and the confusion. The new non-filers web tool only became available on April 10, less than two weeks ago. Reports to our organizations have made it clear that the web tool is not usable via most cell phones and that it is not compatible with some screen-reader programs used by people who are blind or have visual impairments. The web tool is also an internet-only solution that has not taken into account the needs of people who do not have regular access to the internet

(a problem compounded by stay-at-home orders and closures of public libraries). As we raised in our prior letter, there is significant confusion as to how the web tool works for those who do not have bank accounts, do not have account information and routing numbers readily available, or who prefer a paper check or a deposit to a Direct Express card. The Get My Payment tool, also recently released on April 17, does not allow Social Security beneficiaries to check their status, meaning that none of the individuals who are required to submit the information by Wednesday at noon can verify if their information is correctly entered or received by Treasury. By setting such a short deadline and providing insufficient web tools, Treasury and the other agencies are failing people with disabilities, their children, and other Social Security beneficiaries with eligible children. We urge the Agencies to eliminate this deadline and make payments on a rolling basis as information is submitted to the web tool.

We understand and support the agencies' desire to issue Economic Impact Payments as quickly as possible, but this solution does not take into account the serious outreach efforts that are necessary to reach these populations. As we have pointed out in prior letters, efforts to reach Social Security, SSI, and VA Disability Compensation and Veterans Pension beneficiaries in 2008 when the IRS last issued economic stimulus payments faced major challenges and left out 17 percent of beneficiaries. The issues we identified in our prior letter continue to be challenges, including lack of internet access, physical and electronic accessibility issues, and legally required reasonable accommodations and assistance for people with disabilities in understanding what is required. The Agencies must undertake outreach to these populations and create options for them. To balance this need with the need to issue payments quickly, we also urge the Agencies to adopt several deadlines that allow individuals to submit their information over the course of the year and be paid as these deadlines pass. By creating a system that requires action within the next 48 hours or forces families to wait until 2021, the Agencies are failing to reflect Congressional intent of these payments: to assist people in getting through this moment of crisis and allow them to stimulate the economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue for Social Security, SSI, VA Disability Compensation, and Veterans Pension beneficiaries. The United States is currently in an unprecedented time and we must all work together to accommodate all persons. We stand ready to work with you to find solutions to this vital issue. Please do not hesitate to contact Bethany Lilly ([lilly@thearc.org](mailto:lilly@thearc.org)) or Stacy Cloyd ([stacy.cloyd@nosscr.org](mailto:stacy.cloyd@nosscr.org)) with any questions or to arrange for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Access Living  
ACCSES  
ADAPT Montana  
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Council of the Blind  
American Diabetes Association

American Kidney Fund  
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Atlanta Legal Aid Society  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Bay Area Community Services  
Benefits Law Center  
California Access Coalition  
California Association of Food Banks  
Californians for Disability Rights Inc  
Center for Disability Rights  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Representation  
Center for Survivor Agency & Justice  
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy  
Children's Law Center  
Church World Service  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free  
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Delaware  
Community Legal Services  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Congress of California Seniors  
Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. (CFRI)  
Davis Phinney Foundation  
DC KinCare Alliance  
Democratic Disability Caucus of Florida  
Disability Law Center  
disAbility Law Center of Virginia  
Disability Law Center, Massachusetts  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Center - NH  
Disability Rights Connecticut  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Disability Rights Iowa  
Disability Rights Maine  
Disability Rights MD  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
Disability Rights New York  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Disability Rights TN  
Disability Rights Vermont  
Empire Justice Center  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation New England  
Equal Rights Advocates

Equality North Carolina  
First Focus on Children  
Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County  
Fund for Community Reparations for Autistic People of Color's Interdependence, Survival, and Empowerment  
Georgia Legal Services Program  
Global Liver Institute  
Global Policy Solutions  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Gray Panthers  
Health Hats  
Healthcare Rights Coalition  
Homeless Action Center  
Homeless Advocacy Project  
Homeless Persons Representation Project  
Houston Center for Independent Living  
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc.  
Inner City Law Center  
Japanese American Citizens League  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Justice in Aging  
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Latinos for a Secure Retirement  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Legal Aid at Work  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Legal Aid Society of Columbus  
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia  
Legal Council for Health Justice  
Liberty Resources  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Medicare Rights Center  
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation  
NAACP  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of the Deaf  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Education Association  
National Federation of the Blind  
National Health Law Program

National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
National Women's Law Center  
Native American Disability Law Center  
ND Protection & Advocacy Project  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Not Dead Yet  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
PFLAG National  
Pisgah Legal Services  
Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities  
RespectAbility  
RESULTS DC  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
Senior and Disability Action  
Social Security Works  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services  
Starkloff Disability Institute  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Legal Aid Society  
The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Cerebral Palsy National  
United Spinal Association  
United Way of Central Ohio  
University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic  
Urban Justice Center  
VetsFirst  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Women's Institute For A Secure Retirement