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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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July 14, 2020

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

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

I write to you today in the interest of securing Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) for my constituents who have not had their payments issued. Constituents in my district have sought my help because their payments have been withheld due to a deceased spouse. As IRS considers possible solutions to remedy this situation, I remain concerned about continued confusion because my constituents have been told that they would only receive these payments after filing their 2020 taxes. While these payments can be a critical resource for everyone navigating these difficult times, they are especially important for those who are widowed. I respectfully urge the Treasury Department to establish a pathway and accelerated timeline for these payments to be distributed.

To aid in this request, I would like to draw your attention to Margaret from Manchester and Anne from Somersworth, two constituents who reached out to my office. Margaret's husband John passed away on April 5th, 2020, a little over a week after the CARES Act was signed into law. Anne's husband passed away in 2019, but she filed her 2019 taxes jointly with him. Both received letters from the IRS stating that the \$2,400 EIP was being issued, but the payments were never distributed. When my office reached out to the IRS on their behalf, we were told that Margaret and Anne would not receive the portion of the EIP that they are entitled to until they file their 2020 taxes. As seniors who are navigating these tumultuous times after losing their spouses, this decision left both feeling distraught.

These are just two examples of constituents who have been promised financial assistance only to have it taken away. In some instances, the constituents are not tax filers, which has led to even

more confusion about how they will receive their payment. It is critical that these constituents are able to access their EIPs before the next tax season and have assurances about when their payments will arrive. During a crisis that already endangers the health of seniors and after being told conflicting information, they deserve the stability of knowing when they will receive the payments that they are entitled to.

Congress authorized these payments to provide assistance during a time of unprecedented hardship, and Americans deserve to know when that relief will arrive. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to ensure that my constituents receive their payments without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress