



Social Security Advisory Board

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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Saul
Commissioner of Social Security
Social Security Administration
1500 Woodlawn Drive
Baltimore, MD 21241

Dear Commissioner Saul:

On behalf of the Social Security Advisory Board (“Board”), thank you for working with Secretary Mnuchin and the Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) to assure automatic \$1200 COVID-19 relief payments to Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, as required in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. 116-136). We appreciate your response to our letter dated April 6, 2020 on this issue.

We remain concerned about the short turn-around time from announcement to deadline for families to complete the online form to receive payments for eligible dependents. As you know, while the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) online filing portal was announced on April 10, 2020, the April 22, 2020 deadline for Social Security beneficiaries to file online for the additional \$500 payments per eligible dependent was only announced on April 20, 2020. The May 5, 2020 deadline for SSI recipients to file online for the same payments was announced on April 24, 2020. We urge you to work with Treasury to seek elimination of the filing deadlines for Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients.



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The Board is concerned that many of the people receiving Social Security and SSI benefits will have trouble learning about and complying with the IRS filing requirements due to their limited access to computers and the internet. Moreover, it is our understanding from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities that there are accessibility issues with the IRS portal. Required social distancing and closure of libraries and field offices, where assistance could be obtained, make filing more difficult.

Under the CARES Act, the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to conduct a public awareness campaign in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security (and the heads of other Federal agencies) to provide information regarding the availability of relief payments. Nevertheless, because of the difficulties noted above, it may be several weeks before the vast majority of those eligible receive the information and file applications on the Treasury's online portal.

The Board stands ready to assist SSA in furthering public awareness about eligibility for these relief payments and any action required by those eligible or their representative payee. We thank you for your continued leadership during these uncertain times. Please contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Hildred".

Kim Hildred

cc: The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury