

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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April 2, 2020

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

The Honorable Andrew Saul
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Saul,

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a massive economic toll on communities across New York State. As a New York State Senator representing Rockland and Westchester Counties, which are among the most severely affected areas in the nation, I have seen firsthand the financial devastation incurred by our most vulnerable residents. As such, I want to thank you for your efforts to enact the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the provision therein to provide direct economic stimulus payments to individuals.

While these payments are a tangible first step in providing financial relief, it is with great concern that I write to you regarding recent IRS guidelines, published March 30, which state that individuals must file a tax return in order to receive payment. This requirement presents an unnecessary barrier to vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities, who oftentimes do not, or are unable to file tax returns. I urge you to automatically qualify social security beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities for these payments, without the need to file a tax return.

Thank you for your leadership throughout this unprecedented crisis. I encourage you to bolster our nation's economic outlook by ensuring that our most vulnerable residents have access to this much-needed financial relief. I look forward to working with you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Carlucci', written over a light blue circular stamp.

David Carlucci
State Senator, 38th District – New York