

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-209, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As you work diligently to craft a stimulus package to respond to the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, we urge you ensure immigrants and their families are eligible to receive any proposed direct payments.

We must put meaningful resources into the pockets of those hardest hit by the coronavirus. But the current proposal put forth is limited to one-time cash payments that exclude immigrant taxpayers who do not have a social security number. That means their citizen children and spouses would also be left out of this important component of a potential stimulus package. The coronavirus does not care where someone is born, nor their immigration status, and neither should our response.

In order to resolve this issue and ensure all individuals, particularly lower-income individuals and families, receive needed relief, we ask that you make sure those who file tax returns using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) are included in any of the benefits a final stimulus package provides. Immigrants are an incredibly important part of our economy. According to the American Immigration Council, in 2015, 4.35 million people paid over \$13.7 billion in net taxes using an ITIN. These individuals contribute millions of dollars to our economy and must not be left behind.

We know you are working around the clock and in a bipartisan fashion to respond to this crisis, and we appreciate your attention to this issue at this critical time.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

Nydia M. Velázquez
Lou Correa
Adam Smith
Ayanna Pressley
Juan Vargas
Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Mark Pocan
Judy Chu
Alan Lowenthal
David N. Cicilline
Suzanne Bonamici
Grace F. Napolitano
Joaquin Castro
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Pramila Jayapal
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Ilhan Omar
Jimmy Panetta
Grace Meng