

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 14, 2022

Commissioner Charles P. Rettig

Internal Revenue Service

1111 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

Due to the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been experiencing significant delays in the processing of tax returns and amended returns. As of December 18, 2021, the IRS has 6.3 million unprocessed individual returns and 2.3 million unprocessed amended returns. Additionally, many taxpayers and eligible Americans have still not received their unemployment compensation, Child Tax Credit payments, and Economic Impact Payments.

The delays and an inability to even reach an IRS customer service representative have caused the local Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) to receive a high volume of inquiries. One TAS Office, for example, has had a number of recent retirements and now has only three advocates remaining. Furthermore, we're hearing of workload shifts from other TAS offices in the region, compounding the problem. Considering the time it takes to train new hires and the constant increase in workload, the remaining TAS advocates will have an overwhelming number of cases to manage.

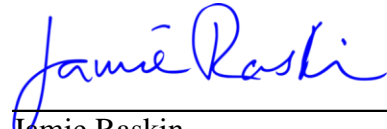
In addition, these delays are causing taxpayers severe financial hardships and loss. Along with the typical financial strain caused by not receiving refunds, there are additional "downstream" consequences from the delays of tax returns. Taxpayers, for example, may not be able to complete the down payment for a mortgage or apply for student loans because they cannot provide the required tax transcript. No taxpayer should have to lose out on the opportunity to purchase a home and or enroll in college because they are waiting for their returns to be processed.

We therefore urge the IRS to create a plan to efficiently and effectively process the backlog in mailed tax returns, as well as to assist TAS in the hiring and training of new taxpayer advocates, and to advise Congress of that plan.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



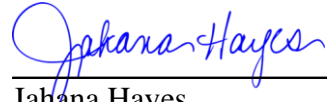
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
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Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
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Mark Pocan
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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



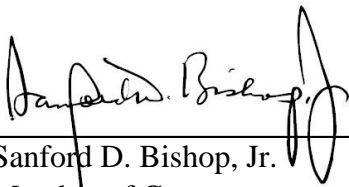
André Carson
Member of Congress



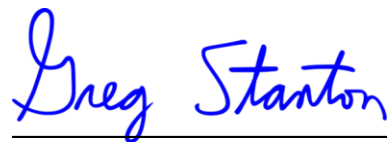
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



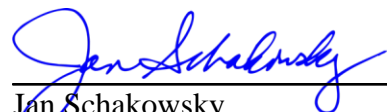
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



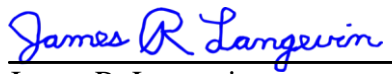
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



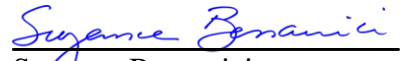
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



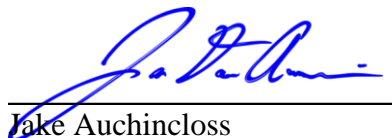
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



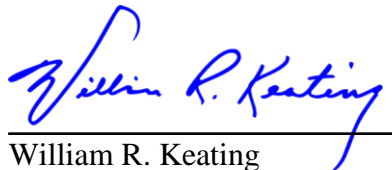
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



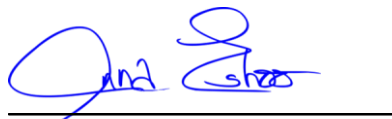
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



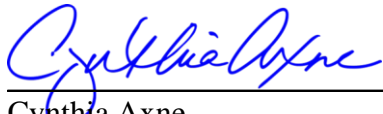
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



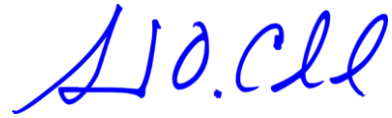
Anna G. Eshoo
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



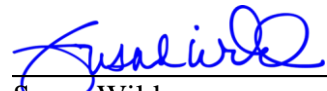
Cynthia Axne
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Salud Carbajal
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Susan Wild
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Kathy E. Manning
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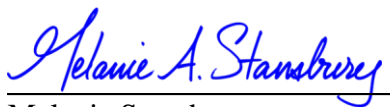
Jackie Speier
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Joyce Beatty
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Pramila Jayapal
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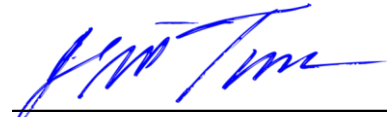
Melanie Stansbury
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Ilhan Omar
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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David J. Trone
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Karen Bass
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Grace Meng
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Chris Pappas
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Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



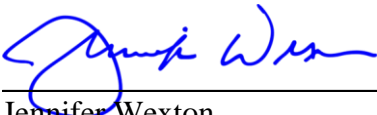
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



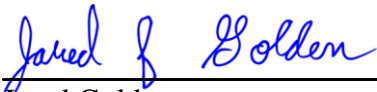
Vicente Gonzalez
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Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



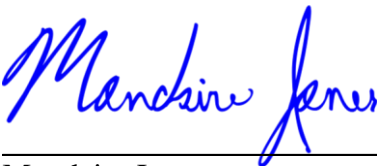
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



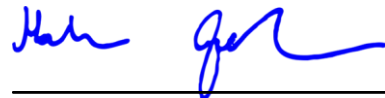
Earl Blumenauer
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James A. Himes
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Bill Foster
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Hakeem S. Jeffries
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Tom Malinowski
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David N. Cicilline
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



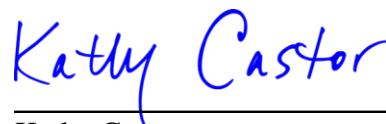
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam B. Schiff", written over a horizontal line.

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Castor", written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress