



March 25, 2021

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

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

On behalf of our 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, AARP writes to share concerns about the delay in distribution of individual recovery rebates to Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries. AARP appreciates your work in quickly processing a reported 127 million payments in less than two weeks since the passage of the American Rescue Plan. However, many older Americans who have been hard hit by the health and economic impact of the pandemic have yet to receive either their payments or clear communications from the government on when this will occur.

Over the past year, AARP worked hard to ensure that federal beneficiaries, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs and Railroad retirees, were able to receive much-needed relief payments automatically, even if they do not normally file taxes. It is only right that older Americans – who already interact regularly with the federal government through these various programs – be able to receive relief payments quickly and automatically, and without having to take additional steps.

AARP understands the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is currently working with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Railroad Retirement Board to once again identify eligible federal beneficiaries for automatic payments. We urge you to provide clear information on the IRS and other federal agency websites about when exactly these groups should expect their payments. Older Americans are counting on these payments to make ends meet. We urge you to prioritize these federal beneficiaries in both your payment distribution and communications efforts moving forward.

Once again, AARP thanks you for your leadership in helping to ensure automatic payments to millions of Americans throughout the pandemic, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Tom Nicholls of our Government Affairs team at tnicholls@aarp.org or 202-434-3765.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Sweeney" clearly legible.

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
AARP Government Affairs