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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 16, 2020

The Hon. Mike Doyle
2637 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

The Hon. Conor Lamb
504 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

RE: IRS Extension of the 2021 Income Tax Filing Deadline

Dear Congressman Doyle and Congressman Lamb,

Hello. I hope this letter finds you well and staying healthy.

For the past twelve years, my office has partnered with AARP-Tax Aide service to provide free federal and state income tax preparation services for senior citizens and low-income residents from early February through the traditional April 15 deadline. Annually, the volunteers in my office complete about 1000 tax returns, which provides a vital service to those most in need.

During the 2020 tax preparation season, our service was ended abruptly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread shutdown orders. Unfortunately, many folks that were depending on this free service were unable to get their taxes completed and had to turn to a paid service to complete a simple return. Even after the IRS extended the deadline this year to July 15, that extension was implemented too late for AARP to finish that tax year.

Now, as we are entering 2021, we would normally be preparing for this service and getting ready to start making appointments. Unfortunately, because the pandemic continues and we are just beginning to see the start of the distribution of a vaccine for COVID-19, AARP and my office will not be able to do in-person tax preparation. If AARP does have a free service utilizing our volunteers, it will likely be a remote service that will require the volunteer preparer to work with scanned documents and for the individual filers to have access to scanning documents and to the internet to do a Zoom or FaceTime call. Unfortunately, most of the folks that take advantage of this free service do not have such access and many volunteer preparers will not volunteer their time to prepare under these conditions.

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Keep in mind that AARP Tax-Aide program and a sistering program, the VITA program are national programs and serve millions of seniors and low-income residents.

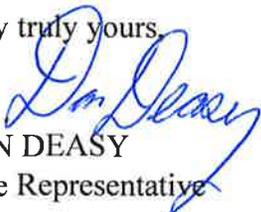
It is for these reasons that I am writing to both of you. I believe it would be in the best interest of all taxpayers if the Internal Revenue Service would announce in early January an extension of the tax filing deadline for 2021. Clearly, by April 15, 2021, there will still be millions of Americans who have not received a vaccine.

By delaying the filing deadline, the IRS would be providing much-needed time for all taxpayers to get their returns completed. Additionally, the extension would give these vital free programs the opportunity to delay their free service until the end of May through July 15, at which time, likely in-person appointments would once again be a safe option.

I respectfully ask the two of you to reach out to your congressional colleagues and urge the IRS to act now with a filing deadline extension.

Thank you for your kind consideration and response.

Very truly yours,



DAN DEASY

State Representative