

United States Senate

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

Thank you for your ongoing work to eliminate the unprecedented backlog at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). With the 2022 filing season underway, we continue to be concerned about the backlog's impact on taxpayers and congressional offices' ability to assist constituents with IRS casework. As the IRS works to eliminate the current backlog of returns and correspondence, we request you to pursue additional actions to maximize the IRS' current workforce to address the backlog in order to reduce disruptions this filing season.

Our teams of congressional caseworkers work to provide timely assistance to constituents experiencing challenges with the IRS. We continue to hear from constituents who are still waiting for their 2020 tax returns, have received confusing notices about overdue payments they already paid, and cannot reach anyone at the IRS for assistance. Many of these problems stem from the millions of unprocessed correspondence items from 2021.

In 2020 and 2021, the IRS was integral to providing financial relief to Americans during the pandemic, such as distributing economic impact payments and monthly Child Tax Credit payments as well as processing small businesses' filings. While we appreciate the magnitude of these endeavors and strongly believe Congress must support the IRS with the resources necessary to fulfill its responsibilities, we also recognize that there are many taxpayers still in dire need and who have legitimate concerns about the current filing season.

We understand the long-term solution to ensure the IRS can manage its workload and provide timely and high-quality service to taxpayers is additional resources to hire and train employees across several departments and modernize technologies. However, those investments will take time, and taxpayers require more immediate relief, especially with the 2022 filing season already underway. We were encouraged to see your announcements of forming surge teams to address the backlog and pursuing overtime policies. In order to maximize the impact of the current IRS workforce, we respectfully request information on the following question:

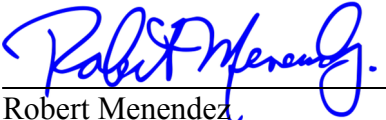
- What are the current overtime policies for different positions working on the backlog? Please provide information on overtime policies for employees typically assigned to processing correspondence, those temporarily working on surge teams, and any other relevant positions.

Additionally, we urge you to consider the following policies:


- Pursue maximum overtime options for staff who are working on the backlog for those who do not already have maximum overtime flexibilities.
- Allow additional employees to volunteer to join surge teams, such as employees with prior account management experience or those who could be trained in a relatively short period of time.
- Extend overtime options for additional surge team employees.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and for the IRS' work serving taxpayers. Your swift action on this issue will help alleviate the concerns of taxpayers across our country.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



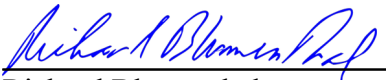
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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Sherrod Brown
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Benjamin L. Cardin
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Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator




Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



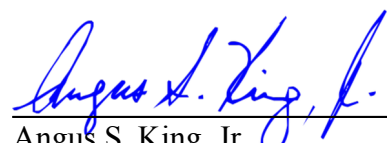
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



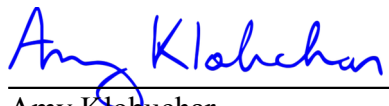
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



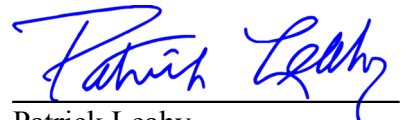
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



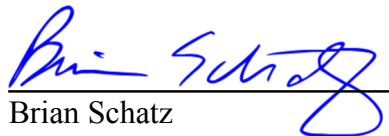
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
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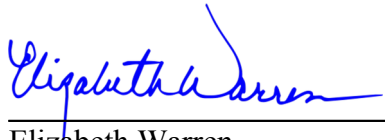
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



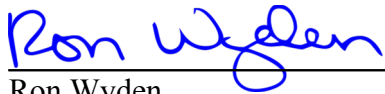
Chris Van Hollen
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Elizabeth Warren
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Sheldon Whitehouse
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Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on
Finance