

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write to urge the Treasury Department to promptly clarify that states have the authority to prevent incarcerated criminals from receiving Economic Impact Payments by seizing stimulus payments from criminals in order to provide restitution to crime victims' families. We strongly support state efforts to seize criminals' Economic Impact Payments and to ensure that these payments benefit families victimized by crime rather than incarcerated criminals.

In March 2020, Congress provided the first round of Economic Impact Payments through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the CARES Act, states were permitted to seize stimulus payments to provide criminal restitution in a manner consistent with state law. The recently-passed American Rescue Plan continued this policy, allowing states to seize convicted criminals' Economic Impact Payments in order to assist crime victims and their families.

In order to support state efforts to prevent incarcerated criminals from receiving Economic Impact Payments, we urge the Treasury to provide clear guidance to states regarding their authority to seize stimulus payments in order to provide criminal restitution.

We thank you for your attention to urgent issue.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator