THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY CIVIL

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin Secretary of the Treasury US Department of the Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Andrew Saul Commissioner of Social Security US Social Security Administration 1500 Woodlawn Drive Baltimore, MD 21241

The Honorable Robert Wilkie Secretary of Veterans Affairs US Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue NW Washington, DC 20571 199 Water Street New York, NY 10038 (212) 577-3300 https://www.legalaidnyc.org/

John K. Carroll President

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Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Commissioner Saul, and Secretary Wilkie:

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) writes in response to the ongoing implementation of the Recovery Rebate from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law Number 116-136. We applaud the Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service for committing to provide automatic processing of the Recovery Rebate for recipients of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits. We appreciate the great strides underway to provide the Recovery Rebate quickly to millions of households.

However, many eligible veterans, elderly, and disabled persons will be left out without automatic processing of Recovery Rebates for recipients of Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") and Veterans' Administration benefits, similar to the automatic processing of SSA-1099 forms.

The new web tool *Non-filers: Enter Payment Info Here* will only be feasible for a fraction of these vulnerable populations. Access to technology, technological literacy, physical and mental disabilities, and very frequent confusion between SSI and Social Security Disability ("SSDI") will prevent countless eligible individuals from receiving the much needed Recovery Rebate.

We implore your agencies to expand automatic processing of Recovery Rebate payments to these vital members of our communities by utilizing data that the Treasury Department, Social Security Administration, and Department of Veterans Affairs already possess.

Sincerely,

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Adriene Holder Attorney-in-Charge