

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 2, 2020

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

Mr. Scott Levins  
Director  
National Personnel Records Center  
1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138

Dear Commissioner Rettig and Mr. Levins,

We write to you regarding the urgent need for IRS and National Personnel Records Center employees to return to work at full capacity and assist our constituents with critical issues. As you know, every state and the District of Columbia have begun lifting their COVID-19 stay at home orders and have begun the process of reopening their economies. These states have already seen tremendous success in this regard, with businesses implementing their own strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 that allow them to work and earn vital income while keeping their communities safe. While our ongoing battle with COVID-19 continues, so too do the needs of the 20 million veterans who have selflessly served our nation through unimaginable hardship.

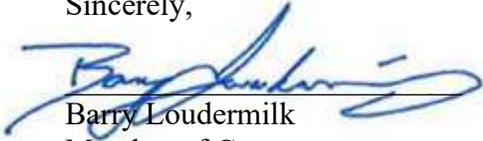
Millions of Americans in the private sector have returned to work, and it is urgent that government employees do the same. Our veterans cannot move forward with their claims for benefits, health care, or simple requests for information due to reduced operating capacity and outright closures within your agencies. While many Americans have been able to make ends meet during the pandemic thanks in part to expanded unemployment insurance and the IRS's hard work distributing rebate payments to households throughout the country, many more are still waiting for responses to simple inquiries. In many cases, the resolution of these simple record inquiries can have life-altering consequences for the individual inquiring. We appreciate that the IRS has made efforts to bring employees back to work at a limited capacity and understand the challenges these times present to your agency and employees. However, we believe it is of the utmost importance that your agencies immediately return to full strength. We have had several months to adapt to the new challenges presented by this pandemic, and by now there should be plans in place to reopen safely and completely. Our veterans deserve better; our nation deserves better.

Finally, thank you for your efforts to keep your employees safe. We would like to extend our assistance in any way that we can to ensure you are able to continue your vital work while caring for the safety of your employees and their families. We are all in this together as a nation, and we must all do our part to ensure the wellbeing of our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD  
Member of Congress



Rick Allen  
Member of Congress