

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McCarthy, and Republican Leader McConnell,

We write imploring you to broaden the definition of a qualifying dependent for purposes of additional stimulus assistance through whatever legislative mechanism is necessary to ensure this long-overdue relief becomes law.

While the CASH Act and the Heroes Acts passed by the House provided for an expanded definition of dependent, former Majority Leader Mitch McConnell failed to take action on these relief proposals, leaving millions of families hurting. The legislative language in these bills closely mirrored proposals we previously authored (S.3652/H.R.6420) and are planning to reintroduce shortly.

We are encouraged that our proposals closely align with President Biden's proposal for additional stimulus payment in his American Rescue Plan. As you know, prior rounds of economic impact payments have limited economic impact payments to children age 16 and below, rather than to all dependents. This has left nearly 15 million dependents unable to receive economic impact payments. To resolve this striking inequity, we urge you include all dependents in economic payments proposals, rather than retaining the flawed structure of past stimulus payments that has excluded so many Americans who are struggling to get by.

Expanding the dependent definition will be helpful to people with disabilities and their families and would ensure that both qualifying children and qualifying relatives (as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code) will receive the payments. This broader definition would ensure that people with disabilities who do not reside with their families, but are claimed as dependents, would be eligible for the credit as well.

As Minnesotans continue to face an unprecedented health and economic crisis due to COVID-19, we are committed to helping all of our constituents get the assistance they deserve and look forward to working with you on this matter moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina Smith", with a horizontal line underneath.

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angie Craig", with a horizontal line underneath.

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Richard Neal, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Kevin Brady, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable John Yarmuth, House Budget Committee  
The Honorable Jason Smith, House Budget Committee  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Senate Budget Committee  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Senate Budget Committee