

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2020

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

The Honorable Russell T. Vought  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Director Vought,

I am writing to follow up on the letter that 22 of my colleagues and I sent on September 8, which requested that the payroll tax deferral be voluntary, instead of mandatory, for federal employees and members of the armed forces.

On September 24, in response to my question about this issue during a Senate Banking Committee hearing, Secretary Mnuchin testified that it would be “reasonable” for the payroll tax deferral to be voluntary, “if people don’t want to participate.” Secretary Mnuchin also testified that he would follow up with the Office of Management and Budget about this issue.

Since federal agencies are currently altering paychecks on a mandatory basis to implement the deferral – regardless of whether individuals want to participate – I urge you to expedite the consideration of our request to make this voluntary as soon as possible. Our letter also asked for basic information about how the deferral will be implemented, including whether and how it will be collected from employees who separate from their job before it is recouped. Federal employees, service members, and agencies need answers to these questions as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

Attachment: Letter sent on September 8, 2020.