April 28, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader Hoyer:

As members of Future Forum, we write to respectfully request your urgent attention to an issue affecting younger Americans and their families. As you know, the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provides economic impact payments—or recovery rebates—of $1200 per eligible individual ($2400 for married taxpayers filing a joint tax return) and an additional $500 per qualifying child, with amounts phasing down for higher-income taxpayers.

The term “qualifying child” is defined as a child under age 17 who also meets certain other criteria. This is a narrow definition and does not track the broader definition in the Internal Revenue Code that is typically used to determine when a child can be claimed as a dependent for tax purposes. As a result, under the CARES Act, a taxpayer will not receive this $500 payment for a 17-year-old, an 18-year-old, or a student under age 24. It is also troubling that permanently disabled dependent children of any age are excluded under this narrow definition.

We believe Congress should amend the definition of “qualifying child” in the CARES Act, so as to provide a $500 payment to taxpayers in the case of these dependents. Representative Angie Craig has introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6420, the All Dependent Children Count Act, which would accomplish this goal.
There is no good policy rationale for the narrow definition that the CARES Act uses. Taxpayers with dependent children of all ages, not simply those with children under age 17, should receive this critical financial support during this unprecedented crisis. We thank you for your leadership during this time and stand ready to work with you to support this request.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Brendan Boyle  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Max Rose
Member of Congress
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee