



**LAWYERS FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
BOSTON**

March 18, 2020

Secretary Steven Mnuchin  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20220

Commissioner Charles P. Rettig  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

Lawyers for Civil Rights writes to urge the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to extend the April 15 deadline for filing individual tax returns in light of the public health crisis surrounding COVID-19. As an organization providing free legal support to affected families and communities, we appreciate that the IRS has already announced a three-month reprieve to *pay* income taxes. This extension is vital to help taxpayers affected by COVID-19. **We urge you to now extend the April 15 deadline for *filing* individual tax returns as well, by at least two months.** This extension should be declared now while the IRS and individual taxpayers have time to plan accordingly.

The requested extension is amply justified by the immediate and long-term impacts of the public health crisis. Right now, in many communities, tax professionals are handling a large volume of requests for tax preparation assistance leading to crowded offices and facilities where people are at heightened risk for disease transmission. Over the next week, we fully expect that more cities across the country will follow guidance from public health authorities and urge residents to shelter in place and quarantine. This will make it extremely difficult for people to comply with the April 15 filing deadline. The IRS must extend the individual tax filing deadline by at least two months to minimize the risk of infection as people file their tax returns. We stand ready to assist in community outreach and engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivan Espinoza-Madrugal".

Ivan Espinoza-Madrugal, Esq.  
Executive Director