

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Secretary Yellen:

Last year, Democrats enacted the largest spending bill in American history – the \$2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law 117-2 or ARPA). Since its enactment, inflation has persisted at record levels and numerous examples of misuse, waste, fraud, and abuse of funds continue to be uncovered. Although Democrats claimed this law was about defeating COVID-19, less than 9 percent of its total funding was allocated for public health to actually combat the virus, while \$500 billion was allocated for state and local government bailouts. Congressional oversight efforts have uncovered multiple examples of waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars stemming from this law, including, but not limited to:

- \$140 million for a luxury hotel in Florida.
- \$7.2 million for horse racing in Arizona.
- \$5 million for a moonshine walking trail in North Carolina.
- \$4 million for beach bathrooms and parking lots in South Carolina.
- \$2.1 million for a golf course in Florida.
- \$2 million to plant trees in New York.
- \$2 million for a ski mountain in Iowa.

This is not an exhaustive list. To add to the misuse of taxpayer funds, the Biden Administration sent hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in stimulus checks to illegal immigrants; convicted criminals, including the Boston marathon bomber; foreign citizens; and deceased individuals. To date, Congressional oversight efforts specifically regarding these stimulus checks have uncovered:

- Up to \$4.38 billion in checks sent to illegal immigrants.
- \$783 million in stimulus checks sent to over half a million federal prisoners.
- \$1,400 checks sent to thousands of Japanese citizens living in Japan.
- \$13 million in checks sent to individuals without verifying whether they were still living.

This waste of American taxpayer dollars undoubtedly demonstrates a failure of government and a failure of leadership. The Biden Administration must account for where and how it spent these taxpayer dollars. We request that you provide the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on the Budget with all documents related to:

1. The total number of recovery rebates issued under section 6428B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (whether as a credit of subsection (a) of such section or as a deemed payment under subsection (g) of such section), as added by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to incarcerated individuals, individuals who were nonresident aliens (including foreign nationals living outside the United States) on the date of enactment of ARPA, individuals who were unlawfully present or unauthorized to work in the United States on that date, and to any individuals who died before January 1, 2021, but not including any personally identifiable information about any such individual.
2. The total dollar amount of such recovery rebates issued to incarcerated individuals, individuals who were nonresident aliens (including foreign nationals living outside the United States) on the date of enactment of ARPA, individuals who were unlawfully present or unauthorized to work in the United States on that date, and to any individuals who died before January 1, 2021, but not including any personally identifiable information about any such individual.
3. Any efforts by the Biden Administration to recoup or account for improper payments made as part of the program described above.

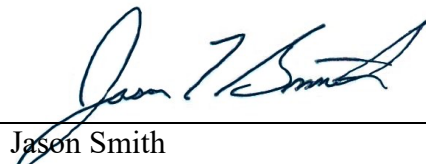
As you are aware, federal agencies are obligated to ensure any information requested by Congress is properly preserved and appropriately archived for Congress and the American people to have a record and account for the development and implementation of the Administration's policies, all of which are funded by American taxpayers. Given that obligation, we request that the Department preserve in complete, unredacted form all information, including but not limited to, all written correspondence, memoranda, documents, legal opinions, records, and any communication to the extent such items are related to items 1 and 2 listed above.

As a result of the spending in ARPA, consumer prices have increased at the fastest rate in 40 years. It is imperative that the American people have a full and honest accounting of where their money went and how it was spent in addition to what attempts – if any – the Biden Administration has made to recoup or at least account for this egregious waste of taxpayer dollars. Please provide the documents and information requested above by November 10, 2022.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means



Jason Smith
Republican Leader
Committee on the Budget