

## With majority of staff furloughed, Senators ask IRS for details on fulfilling tax refunds

Posted by [Alan Van Wormer](#) On 01/09/2019

**WASHINGTON** – Nineteen days into the federal government shutdown, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) are seeking details from Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Charles Rettig on the announcement earlier this week that the tax filing season and processing of refunds would be on-schedule at the end of January. Currently, approximately 88 percent of IRS employees have been locked out of their jobs, freezing core preparations and trainings for the upcoming tax season. The remaining employees continue to work without any idea of when their next paycheck may arrive.

"Many families depend on their tax refund to meet basic expenses or to save for unanticipated emergencies. The timely distribution of refunds is critical for these households. While the IRS's announcement confirmed that tax filing season would begin later this month, we remain concerned that the disruption caused by the shutdown will cause prolonged delays in getting refunds out to American taxpayers," the senators wrote in their letter to Commissioner Rettig.

"Today, the House passed a bill that would provide the IRS with the funding it needs. We hope that this and other legislation funding the remaining closed agencies will be passed as expeditiously as possible, and that the President will agree to sign it."

Senator Cardin is a member of the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Van Hollen is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The full letter can be found below and at [this link](#).

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