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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the Boost Communities Program to provide monthly payments to America’s consumers during the COVID–19 emergency to recover from the emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TLAIB introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the Boost Communities Program to provide **monthly payments to America’s consumers during the** COVID–19 emergency to recover from the emergency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Automatic Boost to
5 Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
4 the Boost Communities Program as set forth in sec-
5 tion 3.

6 (2) INTERIM BOOST CARD.—The term “interim
7 BOOST card” means a prepaid debit card issued
8 pursuant to section 3.

9 (3) PAYMENT PERIOD.—The term “payment
10 period” means the period—

11 (A) beginning on the first day of the first
12 month beginning after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, and

14 (B) ending on the later of—

15 (i) 1 year after the termination of the
16 emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by
17 President under section 501(b) of the Rob-
18 ert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
19 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b))
20 with respect to the COVID–19 pandemic;
21 or

22 (ii) 1 year after—

23 (I) the national unemployment
24 rate (as determined by the Bureau of
25 Labor Statistics) is within 2 percent-
26 age points of the national unemploy-

Why

1 ment rate on the moving average of
2 December 2019 through February
3 2020; and

4 (II) the 3-month average of the
5 national unemployment rate has de-
6 clined for two consecutive months.

7 (4) DIGITAL DOLLARS.—The term “digital dol-
8 lars” means dollar balances consisting of digital
9 ledger entries recorded as liabilities in the accounts
10 of any Federal reserve bank and digital coins or cur-
11 rency instruments issued by the United States
12 Treasury as legal tender, and held as bearer instru-
13 ments in any digital dollar cash wallet approved by
14 the United States Treasury.

15 (5) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—The
16 term “digital dollar account wallet” means a digital
17 dollar account, maintained by a Federal reserve
18 bank on behalf of any person, for the purpose of
19 holding digital dollar balances.

20 (6) DIGITAL DOLLAR CASH WALLETS.—The
21 term “digital dollar cash wallet” means any software
22 program, whose standards, specifications, and func-
23 tions are authorized and regulated by the United
24 States Treasury, which stores, sends, and receives
25 digital coins or currency instruments issued by the

1 United States Treasury as legal tender, and which
2 are considered bearer instruments in the possession
3 of the individual or entity on whose behalf the wallet
4 is managed and administered.

5 (7) AT-RISK POPULATIONS.—The term “at-risk
6 population” means a population that is experiencing,
7 or reasonably may be expected to experience, unique
8 direct or indirect financial or personal hardship as
9 a result of or during the Coronavirus crisis, includ-
10 ing the elderly, homeless, physically disabled, and
11 those in remote areas, as well as any other popu-
12 lation as identified by the Secretary.

13 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Treasury.

15 **SEC. 3. BOOST COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
17 program to be known as the “Boost Communities Pro-
18 gram”. Under the Program, the Secretary shall make pay-
19 ments to eligible individuals for each month in the pay-
20 ment period. Such payments shall consist of a general as-
21 sistance component and a targeted supplemental assist-
22 ance component.

23 (b) PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section—

24 (1) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The amount of
25 payments under the Program shall be—

1 (A) for general assistance—

2 (i) \$2,000 per month to each eligible
3 individual thereafter during the payment
4 period; and

5 (ii) \$1,000 per month to each eligible
6 individual a year after the payment period;
7 and

8 (B) for targeted supplemental assistance,
9 such additional amounts and sums as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary to be necessary and ap-
11 propriate to meet the specific needs of eligible
12 individuals who are members of at-risk popu-
13 lations, as identified by the Secretary.

14 (2) METHODS OF PAYMENT.—

15 (A) DIRECT DEPOSIT.—As regards recipi-
16 ents who have previously provided bank account
17 information to the Secretary, the Secretary
18 shall directly deposit Program payments into
19 these accounts, unless recipients indicate a pref-
20 erence to receive an Interim BOOST Card in-
21 stead, in which case that preference shall be
22 honored, and all subsequent Program payments
23 shall be made exclusively via the BOOST card.

24 (B) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—In any case
25 in which subparagraph (A) does not apply, the

1 Secretary shall contract with banking institu-
2 tions that includes minority deposit institutions,
3 community development financial institutions,
4 credit unions, national banking association, and
5 any licensed money transmitter as deemed nec-
6 essary or appropriate by the Secretary to issue
7 an interim BOOST card.

8 (3) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—

9 (A) RULES RELATING TO INTERIM BOOST
10 CARDS.—The interim BOOST card shall—

11 (i) have all the functionality and serv-
12 ice levels currently available to certain re-
13 cipients of public benefits through the
14 Treasury Department's Direct Express
15 program; and

16 (ii) not be subject to any fees or pen-
17 alty charges, usage restrictions, or data
18 collection practices other than those explic-
19 itly authorized by this Act.

20 (B) AVAILABILITY OF FULL BALANCE.—

21 The full balance of the interim BOOST card
22 shall be made available for immediate with-
23 drawal into physical currency at any automated
24 teller machine in the country, at any time, and
25 not be subject to any usage or withdrawal fees.

1 (C) DISTRIBUTION.—

2 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 distribute interim BOOST cards using the
4 Postal Service to all eligible individuals
5 with an active address on file with any
6 government agency, and shall be delivered
7 by certified mail wherever possible, using
8 the fastest service available, with any asso-
9 ciated costs to the Postal Service reim-
10 bursed directly by the Treasury of the
11 United States.

12 (ii) IN PERSON PICK-UP.—Any eligible
13 individual who does not have an active ad-
14 dress on file with any government agency,
15 or who otherwise is not able to or does not
16 receive a prepaid card pursuant to clause
17 (i) may obtain an interim or replacement
18 BOOST card through any card distribu-
19 tion station set up under the Program, in-
20 cluding through any bank (as defined in
21 section 581 of the Internal Revenue Code
22 of 1986), insured credit union (within the
23 meaning of section 101(7) of the Federal
24 Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752(7)) lo-
25 cated in the United States, post office,

1 United States diplomatic missions or any
2 other Federal, State, or local government
3 agency or private contracting entity, as de-
4 termined by the Secretary to be necessary
5 or appropriate.

6 (iii) **WEB BASED ACCESS.**—The Sec-
7 retary shall establish a website for the pur-
8 poses of allowing eligible recipients to up-
9 date their current mailing address and di-
10 rect deposit information, to indicate their
11 preference to receive an Interim BOOST
12 card instead of receiving payments via di-
13 rect deposit, and for providing account in-
14 formation to users, including information
15 pertaining to the account number, status
16 of delivery and receipt of their allocated
17 and funds, and the amount of the funds
18 still available on their card and to obtain
19 a check in the amount of the funds in the
20 account.

21 **TELEPHONE ACCESS.**—The Sec-
22 retary shall establish a dedicated telephone
23 information and assistance number for the
24 purposes of allowing eligible recipients to
25 update their current mailing address and

1 direct deposit information, to indicate their
2 preference to receive an Interim BOOST
3 card instead of receiving payments via di-
4 rect deposit, and for providing account or
5 card information to users, including infor-
6 mation pertaining to the status of delivery
7 and receipt of their allocated funds, and
8 the amount of the funds still available on
9 their card.

10 (v) AT-RISK OUTREACH.—The Sec-
11 retary shall establish a dedicated Emer-
12 gency Responder Corps, and where nec-
13 essary or appropriate, as determined by
14 the Secretary, shall contract with existing
15 Federal, State, and local government agen-
16 cies and private entities, to perform out-
17 reach to at-risk populations, including the
18 elderly, homeless, physically disabled, or in
19 remote areas, to ensure that these popu-
20 lations receive their interim BOOST card
21 as well as to perform a general wellness
22 check in case of needed targeted supple-
23 mental assistance, which shall then be pro-
24 vided in such sums and amounts as deter-
25 mined to be necessary and appropriate by

1 the Secretary via any payments mechanism
2 otherwise authorized by this Act and
3 deemed appropriate for the circumstances
4 by the Secretary.

5 (4) REGULATORY TREATMENT OF PAYMENT.—

6 The Secretary shall apply the “XX” code specified
7 in section 212.3 of title 31, Code of Federal Regula-
8 tions, to designate all Program payments as benefit
9 payments. The Secretary shall further issue such
10 rules or guidance as needed to protect Program pay-
11 ments from garnishment. In addition, the Secretary
12 shall issue such rules or guidance as needed to en-
13 sure that any funds distributed through the Pro-
14 gram do not render recipients ineligible for any
15 other Federal, State, or local benefits or income that
16 they would otherwise have been entitled to receive in
17 the absence of the Program, including excluding any
18 general assistance or targeted supplemental assist-
19 ance received via the Program from calculation of
20 reportable annual income for the purpose of calcu-
21 lating eligibility for benefits subject to an income-
22 cap threshold.

23 (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible indi-
25 vidual” means—

1 (A) any citizen or resident of the United
2 States means a citizen or resident (as such
3 terms are used in section 7701(a)(30)(A) of the
4 Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the United
5 States; and

6 (B) any nonresident alien (as defined in
7 section 7701(b)(1)(B) of such Code) who has
8 been in the United States for more than the 3-
9 month period beginning on December 13, 2019.

10 (2) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
11 States” includes the 50 States, the District of Co-
12 lumbia, and the possessions of the United States, in-
13 corporated territories and citizens abroad.

14 (d) RULES RELATING TO PROGRAM.—

15 (1) COORDINATION.—To ensure that the Pro-
16 gram is as universal and comprehensive as possible,
17 the Secretary shall develop a list of eligible individ-
18 uals through coordination with the Internal Revenue
19 Service, the Social Security Administration, the Fed-
20 eral Election Commission, and every other relevant
21 Federal, State, and local government agency, includ-
22 ing State Departments of Motor Vehicles. Any ex-
23 penses incurred by any entity as a result of compli-
24 ance with the gathering of this information and con-

1 struction of this database shall be reimbursed di-
2 rectly by the United States Treasury.

3 (2) DATABASE OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary
4 shall establish a database of recipients, identified by
5 name and, where available, employer identification
6 number, individual tax identification number, stu-
7 dent identification, or swear in an affidavit where
8 you are ineligible for a social security number and
9 unable to submit satisfactory proof that your pres-
10 ence in the United States is authorized by Federal
11 law. This affidavit will not be treated as public
12 record and use solely for the purposes of this pro-
13 gram. The database established under this para-
14 graph shall not be shared with any other Federal,
15 State, or local agency, other entity, or Immigration
16 Customs Enforcement and related enforcement
17 agencies, or used for any purpose other than to ad-
18 minister the program, provided that the Secretary
19 may share identifying information with the Board of
20 Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the
21 United States Postal Office for the purpose of devel-
22 oping banking accounts maintained at the Federal
23 Reserve Board or for the purposes of maintain ac-
24 counts at the United State Postal Office, upon re-

1 receipt of written consent of recipients for such infor-
2 mation to be shared for this purpose.

3 (e) PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM.—Not later than
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
5 establish an awareness program to inform the public of
6 the availability of the existence of the Program and eligi-
7 bility of recipients to receive general and targeted supple-
8 mental assistance, as well as the various payment and dis-
9 tribution options available to receive this assistance. The
10 Secretary shall use appropriate means of communication
11 to carry out the provisions of this section.

12 (f) FUNDING.—

13 (1) DIRECTIVE TO MINT AND ISSUE PLATINUM
14 COINS.—The Secretary shall, under section 5112(k)
15 of title 31, United States Code, mint and issue two
16 \$1 trillion platinum coins and shall further mint and
17 issue any additional \$1 trillion coins on an as-needed
18 basis to cover any direct and indirect expenses re-
19 lated to the Program for the duration of the pro-
20 gram.

21 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE GENERAL
22 FUND.—The Secretary shall direct the United States
23 Mint to sweep all funds received from the sale of the
24 coins under paragraph (2) into the general fund of
25 the Treasury.

1 (g) PRESERVING FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPEND-
2 ENCE AND EFFICACY OF MONETARY POLICY.—To ensure
3 that the Program does not unintentionally or unduly inter-
4 fere with or limit the efficacy of the Federal Reserve Sys-
5 tem in achieving its statutory obligations, including in par-
6 ticular with respect to implementation of its monetary pol-
7 icy objectives, the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-
8 serve shall be authorized:

9 (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING SECURITIES.—
10 To issue as Federal reserve notes under section
11 248(d) of title 12, United States Code, digital secu-
12 rities, including bills, notes, and bonds, of whatever
13 maturity, denomination, and yield, as is deemed ap-
14 propriate and necessary by the Board of Governors
15 to achieve its statutory objectives under the Federal
16 Reserve Act, in quantities up to an amount equiva-
17 lent to the total face value of all platinum coins
18 issued by the United States Treasury and held as
19 assets by the Federal Reserve System. Notes issued
20 under this paragraph shall be sold on the open mar-
21 ket in a manner similar to the sale of Treasury secu-
22 rities, and, like Federal reserve notes, shall be con-
23 sidered direct obligations of the United States under
24 section 8 of title 18, United States Code, but shall
25 be recorded for accounting purposes as direct liabil-

1 ities of the Federal Reserve System, and accordingly
2 shall not be included in calculations of public debt
3 subject to limit under section 3101 of title 31,
4 United States Code.

5 (2) ESTABLISH A DEDICATED SPECIAL TREAS-
6 URY MONETARY FINANCING ACCOUNT.—The Federal
7 Reserve Bank of New York shall establish an ac-
8 count titled the “Special Treasury Monetary Financ-
9 ing Account”, in which shall be recorded any ex-
10 penses associated with payment of interest on settle-
11 ment balances or Federal reserve securities up to a
12 total principal amount equivalent to the total prin-
13 cipal value of all platinum coins issued by the
14 United States Treasury and held as assets by the
15 Federal Reserve System, plus any additional liabil-
16 ities incurred as a result of prior interest payments
17 made on liabilities issued against coin assets pur-
18 chased under the Program. Any ongoing losses in-
19 curred by this account shall be recorded as a nega-
20 tive liability, and shall be maintained separately
21 from the rest of the balance sheet of both the Fed-
22 eral Reserve Bank of New York and the Federal Re-
23 serve System, so as not to reduce or impact the cal-
24 culation of total income or revenue generated by the
25 Federal Reserve System, or otherwise reduce the

1 total amount of net operating profits to be made
2 available for remittance to the Treasury on an ongoing basis.
3

4 (h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary and the Board of
5 Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall issue such
6 regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section.
7

8 (i) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDACCOUNTS AND TREASURY-ADMINISTERED
9 ECASH WALLETS.—
10

11 (1) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—

12 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—It is a sense of
13 Congress that at the end of the payment period,
14 the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
15 System shall develop and administer a system
16 of Digital Dollar Account Wallets, which shall
17 be branded as “FedAccounts”, and made available to all United States citizens, United States
18 residents, and domestically domiciled businesses, along with associated services, including
19 debit cards, online account access, automatic
20 bill-pay, mobile banking, and automatic teller
21 machines maintained in conjunction with the
22 United States Postal Services at its physical locations.
23
24
25

1 (B) BOOST PAYMENTS VIA DIGITAL DOL-
2 LAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—No later than Janu-
3 ary 1, 2021, the Secretary shall offer all recipi-
4 ents of BOOST payments the option to receive
5 their payments in digital dollar wallets. BOOST
6 recipients receiving their payments through in-
7 terim BOOST cards shall instead receive a Fed-
8 eral Reserve Account for debit cards and be
9 given the option to sign up online for fully oper-
10 ational digital dollar account wallets.

11 (C) AUTHORIZATION FOR EACH FEDERAL
12 RESERVE BANK TO MAINTAIN DIGITAL AC-
13 COUNT.—Subject to such restrictions, limita-
14 tions, and regulations as may be imposed by the
15 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Sys-
16 tem, each Federal reserve bank may maintain
17 digital dollar account wallets.

18 (D) Digital dollar account wallets shall not
19 be subject to any account fees, minimum bal-
20 ances, or maximum balances, and shall not be
21 closed or restricted on the basis of profitability;

22 (E) Digital dollar account wallets shall
23 partner with Post Office branches to ensure ac-
24 cess and availability to application and account
25 services for all United States citizens and

1 United States residents and domestically domi-
2 ciled businesses in areas where access to phys-
3 ical member bank branches is limited, in low- or
4 moderate-income geographies; designated dis-
5 aster areas; distressed or underserved non-met-
6 ropolitan middle-income geographies as des-
7 ignated by the Federal Financial Institutions
8 Examination Council, Federal Reserve banks;

9 (F) Digital dollar account wallets shall
10 provide account holders with reasonable protec-
11 tion against losses caused by fraud or security
12 breaches but shall not include overdraft cov-
13 erage; and

14 (G) Digital dollar account wallets shall
15 comply with the relevant portions of the Bank
16 Secrecy Act in establishing and maintaining
17 digital dollar account wallets and shall impose
18 privacy obligations on providers under the Pri-
19 vacy Act of 1974 that mirror those applicable
20 to Federal tax returns under sections 6103,
21 7213(a)(1), 7213A, and 7431 of the Internal
22 Revenue Code of 1986.

23 (2) TERMS OF DOLLAR CASH WALLET SYS-
24 TEM.—At the end of the payment period, the Treas-
25 ury shall develop and administer a system of Digital

1 Dollar Cash Wallets, which shall be branded as
2 “eCash Wallets” and made available to any eligible
3 individual to store, send, and receive digital coins or
4 other digital currency instruments issued by the
5 United States Treasury as legal tender.

6 (3) ADDITIONAL SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is
7 the additional sense of Congress that—

8 (A) digital dollar cash wallet hosting serv-
9 ices shall be offered directly by the Treasury, in
10 coordination with the Federal Reserve and li-
11 censed depository and money transmitter enti-
12 ties, to promote integration with and interoper-
13 ability between Digital Dollar Cash Wallets and
14 Digital Dollar Account Wallets managed by the
15 Federal Reserve, and shall not be subject to any
16 associated administrative fees or minimum or
17 maximum balances, and shall not be closed on
18 the basis of profitability considerations;

19 (B) digital dollar cash wallets shall also be
20 capable of being self-hosted on widely available,
21 inexpensive digital devices, including mobile
22 phones, with any necessary software or hard-
23 ware licensed under an appropriate open source
24 license; and

1 (C) a Digital Financial Privacy Board
2 shall be—

3 (i) established by the Secretary to
4 oversee, monitor, and report on the design
5 and implementation of the Digital Dollar
6 Cash Wallet System;

7 (ii) maintained thereafter to provide
8 ongoing oversight over its administration;
9 and

10 (iii) designed in such a way as to rep-
11 licate the privacy and anonymity-respecting
12 features of physical currency transactions
13 as closely as possible, including prohibition
14 of surveillance or censorship-enabling back-
15 door features.

16 (4) REGULATION.—The Board of Governors of
17 the Federal Reserve System shall promulgate regula-
18 tions carrying out this section.

19 **SEC. 4. ADDRESSING IMPACT ON INEQUALITY.**

20 After the termination of the emergency declared on
21 March 13, 2020, by President under section 501(b) of the
22 Robert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
23 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with respect to the COVID-
24 19 pandemic, the Secretary shall establish an independent
25 Commission to—

1 (1) investigate and ascertain the short-term and
2 long-term impact of emergency relief measures, in-
3 cluding those included in this Act, on overall levels
4 and rates of increase of income and wealth inequal-
5 ity in the United States; and

6 (2) identify and propose a comprehensive set of
7 legislative and policy responses to address such im-
8 pacts, including progressive tax reform as well as the
9 enactment of new Federal programs and emergency
10 response practices to preemptively prevent such out-
11 comes from occurring in the event of future similar
12 crises or emergencies.