

March 24, 2020

Mr. Michael J. Heffernan, Secretary  
Executive Office for Administration and Finance  
Massachusetts State House, Room 373  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Secretary Heffernan,

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, I urge you to direct the Department of Revenue to issue clear guidance for taxpayers and practitioners and, in congruence with the IRS, to immediately extend the April 15 tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020.

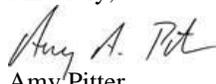
We firmly believe that Massachusetts should, as has been publicly stated for weeks, follow the IRS guidance to extend the April 15 deadline and offer "[similar relief for taxpayers with Massachusetts tax filing obligations](#)." As of today, and in light of this unprecedented public health crisis we all face, 21 states across the country have granted extensions past the April 15 filing deadline with most extending to July 15, 2020. A reversal of that commitment would create an incredibly burdensome situation for tax practitioners across the Commonwealth and would do nothing to alleviate the pressure on an already extremely tight tax season and overwhelmed community.

Additionally, countless tax practitioners volunteer their services to assist those who are the most vulnerable in our society via programs like the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and those offered through the AARP. Unfortunately, but understandably, many of the centers that provide such programs have closed to protect the health and safety of staff and clientele, leaving taxpayers burdened to complete their returns without the appropriate resources to do so.

We understand and appreciate that Massachusetts withholding and sales tax collections will take a significant hit, and there are deep concerns about adequate revenues flowing to the Commonwealth over the next few months. However, it's important to note that taxpayers will continue to file returns, many likely doing so before a determined extended deadline. An extension does not equate to filing late for all taxpayers, but provides breathing room given the unfortunate circumstances we are in. Revenues will continue to flow into the state, but over an extended period of time. It is in the best interest for taxpayers and tax practitioners across Massachusetts to follow the IRS guidance and immediately extend the filing deadline.

I urge you to direct the Department of Revenue to issue clear guidance for taxpayers and practitioners and, in congruence with the IRS, immediately extend the April 15 tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Amy Pitter  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor  
The Honorable Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kevin Brown, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Revenue