



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

January 28, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Under current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules, many taxpayers have the ability to file their taxes using the IRS's "easy" tax form – the 1040EZ. Unfortunately, individuals who are age 65 or over are prohibited from using Form 1040EZ. Seniors that do not qualify for a shorter form (Form 1040A) fill out a longer, more complicated Form 1040 that deals with schedules, and includes much that is not pertinent to seniors' taxable situations.

The Seniors' Tax Simplification Act would allow our nation's senior citizens to file their federal income taxes on a new and simplified Form 1040S that would capture sources of income commonly reported by seniors, including social security benefits, distributions from qualified retirement plans, annuities or other deferred payment arrangements, interest and dividends, and capital gains and losses. In fact, the IRS estimates that as many as 11 million seniors could benefit from a simplified tax form in the first year it is made available. Congress took heed and the House unanimously passed legislation by a recorded vote to create such a form. Unfortunately the Senate failed to consider the legislation and the IRS has since halted efforts to create such a form.

Specifically, the Seniors' Tax Simplification Act would:

- Direct the Treasury Secretary (or Secretary's delegate) to create a new form – as similar as practicable to Form 1040EZ – for individuals 65 and over by the close of the taxable year;
- Require the 1040S to be used even if income for the taxable year includes: social security benefits, distributions from qualified retirement plans, annuities or other deferred payment arrangements, interest and dividends, or capital gains and losses; and
- Establish that Form 1040S is made available regardless of taxable income for the taxable year.

The U.S. Census Bureau projects in 2030, when all of the baby boomers will be 65 and over, that nearly one in five U.S. residents is expected to be 65 and older. This age group is projected to increase to 88.5 million in 2050, more than doubling the number in 2008 (38.7 million). It is clear that millions stand to benefit from the Seniors' Tax Simplification Act, and countless hours of time and energy could be saved not fretting over complex and often confusing tax forms. I hope you will consider co-sponsoring this important legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to become a cosponsor of the Seniors' Tax Simplification Act, please contact Brooke McKnight at 5-1252 or brooke.mcknight@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam H. Putnam".

Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress