



Sterling Harders | President  
Adam Glickman | Secretary-Treasurer  
Andrew Beane | Vice President  
Memo Rivera | Vice President

April 17, 2020

Dear Sen. Patty Murray,

SEIU 775 represents 45,000 in-home caregivers and nursing home workers across Washington and Montana. Members of our Union are providing essential work and frontline healthcare to their clients, seniors, and people with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. The work caregivers do keeps seniors and people with disabilities out of hospitals and safe in their own homes.

Unfortunately, while we appreciate many of the components of the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act (H.R. 748), supported by the majority of the Washington State Delegation, it also contains provisions that left many caregivers' families behind.

As you likely know, the CARES Act denies relief to millions of hard-working immigrant families, many of whom are working in frontline jobs keeping residents safe and fed. This is unacceptable and must be corrected in a future package.

You may be less familiar with another significant exclusion from the relief funding. Caregivers often provide care to adult family members – an elderly parent or an adult child with a disability – people whose main source of income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and they often claim these family members as dependents. Yet under the CARES Act, individuals who receive SSI or SSDI and are claimed as a dependent are not eligible for recovery rebates, so millions of aging Americans and adults with disabilities are completely left out of the recovery program.

I want to tell you about one of our members - Melissah Watts and her son Max, an adult developmentally disabled dependent who receives SSI. Max isn't eligible for the recovery program, and that loss impacts their family of two. Melissah doesn't get to stop paying the mortgage on the part of the house Max lives in, or not pay the water and electricity that Max uses.

Across our state, there are thousands of families like Max and Melissah – families that need additional resources to care for adult children with disabilities. There are also countless more that have their parent or grandparent living with them and being cared for as a dependent who will also not receive any additional help from the stimulus checks.

**SEIU 775**  
**215 Columbia Street | Seattle, WA 98104**

Member Resource Center 1.866.371.3200 | [www.seiu775.org](http://www.seiu775.org)

Our mission is to unite the strength of all working people and our families, to improve our lives and lead the way to a more just and humane world.



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We urge you to support the All Dependents Count Act of 2020 (H.R.6420), which will amend the criteria in the CARES Act so anyone who claims an SSI or SSDI recipient as a dependent will receive a \$500 recovery payment per individual. We also urge you to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in any future stimulus packages.

Your support would improve the lives of Washingtonians caring for people with disabilities and seniors and struggling through this time of crisis. We also ask for your ongoing support for the creation and distribution of more personal protective equipment to long-term care workers, and for extending and expanding federal funds to support State Medicaid budgets, including in-home and nursing home care.

All Washingtonians are supported during this pandemic, and we're happy to be a resource as the delegation works to make sure that happens.

Be well and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sterling Harders", written over a horizontal line.

Sterling Harders  
SEIU 775 President

cc: The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Member of the U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dan Newhouse, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kim Schrier, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Adam Smith, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Denny Heck, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

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