

March 20, 2020

Mr. Kevin W. Brown, Acting Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Revenue
100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Brown,

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants I urge you 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 are grateful that U.S. Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin [announced an extension today](#) – an action that will benefit taxpayers and tax practitioners throughout Massachusetts and the country. We firmly believe that Massachusetts should follow suit and offer similar guidance and extend the deadline. Having clear, consistent and equivalent language from state and federal governments will limit confusion and ease the stress of taxpayers and tax practitioners alike. Should Massachusetts not go forward in “offering similar relief for taxpayers with Massachusetts tax filing obligations.” it would create an incredibly burdensome and unjust 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.

Despite delays and closures in almost every part of their lives, taxpayers and practitioners must now meet a deadline when the information they need to complete their returns will undoubtedly be delayed, and while personal and professional disruptions continue to mount. Unfortunately, taxpayers who rely on assistance programs will be hit the hardest by this decision, as these programs are now closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving taxpayers burdened to complete their returns without the appropriate resources to do so.

Further delay of clear guidance, or the adoption of state-specific relief that differs from the federal guidance will only worsen these concerns. 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 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 Michael J. Heffernan, Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance