

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1030

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. BUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## 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) the termination of the emergency  
16 declared on March 13, 2020, by the Presi-  
17 dent under section 501(b) of the Robert  
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
19 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with  
20 respect to the COVID–19 pandemic; or

21 (ii) the date on which the national un-  
22 employment rate (as determined by the  
23 Bureau of Labor Statistics) is within 2  
24 percentage points of the national unem-  
25 ployment rate on the moving average of  
26 December 2019 through February 2020,

1                   and the 3-month average of the national  
2                   unemployment rate has declined for two  
3                   consecutive months.

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

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

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

1 of the individual or entity on whose behalf the wallet  
2 is managed and administered.

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

11 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12 the Secretary of the Treasury.

13 **SEC. 3. BOOST COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

24 (A) for general assistance—

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

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

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

13 (2) METHODS OF PAYMENT.—

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

23 (B) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—In any case  
24 in which subparagraph (A) does not apply, the  
25 Secretary shall contract with banking institu-

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

7 (3) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—

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

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

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

19 (B) AVAILABILITY OF FULL BALANCE.—  
20 The full balance of the interim BOOST card  
21 shall be made available for immediate with-  
22 drawal into physical currency at any automated  
23 teller machine in the country, at any time, and  
24 not be subject to any usage or withdrawal fees.

25 (C) DISTRIBUTION.—

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

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

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

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

20 (iv) TELEPHONE ACCESS.—The Sec-  
21 retary shall establish a dedicated telephone  
22 information and assistance number for the  
23 purposes of allowing eligible recipients to  
24 update their current mailing address and  
25 direct deposit information, to indicate their



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

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

1 otherwise authorized by this Act and  
2 deemed appropriate for the circumstances  
3 by the Secretary.

4 (4) REGULATORY TREATMENT OF PAYMENT.—

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

22 (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

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

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

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

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

13 (d) RULES RELATING TO PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

10 (f) FUNDING.—

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

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

24 (g) PRESERVING FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPEND-  
25 ENCE AND EFFICACY OF MONETARY POLICY.—To ensure

1 that the Program does not unintentionally or unduly inter-  
2 fere with or limit the efficacy of the Federal Reserve Sys-  
3 tem in achieving its statutory obligations, including in par-  
4 ticular with respect to implementation of its monetary pol-  
5 icy objectives, the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-  
6 serve shall be authorized:

7           (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING SECURITIES.—  
8       To issue as Federal reserve notes under section  
9       248(d) of title 12, United States Code, digital secu-  
10      rities, including bills, notes, and bonds, of whatever  
11      maturity, denomination, and yield, as is deemed ap-  
12      propriate and necessary by the Board of Governors  
13      to achieve its statutory objectives under the Federal  
14      Reserve Act, in quantities up to an amount equiva-  
15      lent to the total face value of all platinum coins  
16      issued by the United States Treasury and held as  
17      assets by the Federal Reserve System. Notes issued  
18      under this paragraph shall be sold on the open mar-  
19      ket in a manner similar to the sale of Treasury secu-  
20      rities, and, like Federal reserve notes, shall be con-  
21      sidered direct obligations of the United States under  
22      section 8 of title 18, United States Code, but shall  
23      be recorded for accounting purposes as direct liabil-  
24      ities of the Federal Reserve System, and accordingly  
25      shall not be included in calculations of public debt

1 subject to limit under section 3101 of title 31,  
2 United States Code.

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

1 available for remittance to the Treasury on an ongoing basis.  
2

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

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

10 (1) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—

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



1           (B) BOOST PAYMENTS VIA DIGITAL DOL-  
2           LAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—No later than Janu-  
3           ary 1, 2022, 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 igned 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.

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 the President under section 501(b)  
22 of the Robert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
23 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with respect to the  
24 COVID–19 pandemic, the Secretary shall establish an  
25 independent 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.

○