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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ms. TLAIB introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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) 1 year after the termination of the  
16 emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by  
17 President under section 501(b) of the Rob-  
18 ert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
19 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b))  
20 with respect to the COVID–19 pandemic;  
21 or

22 (ii) 1 year after—

23 (I) the national unemployment  
24 rate (as determined by the Bureau of  
25 Labor Statistics) is within 2 percent-  
26 age points of the national unemploy-

1                   ment rate on the moving average of  
2                   December 2019 through February  
3                   2020; and

4                   (II) the 3-month average of the  
5                   national unemployment rate has de-  
6                   clined for two consecutive months.

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

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

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

1 United States Treasury as legal tender, and which  
2 are considered bearer instruments in the possession  
3 of the individual or entity on whose behalf the wallet  
4 is managed and administered.

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

13 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14 the Secretary of the Treasury.

15 **SEC. 3. BOOST COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

1 (A) for general assistance—

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

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

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

14 (2) METHODS OF PAYMENT.—

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

24 (B) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—In any case  
25 in which subparagraph (A) does not apply, the

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

8 (3) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—

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

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

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

20 (B) AVAILABILITY OF FULL BALANCE.—

21 The full balance of the interim BOOST card  
22 shall be made available for immediate with-  
23 drawal into physical currency at any automated  
24 teller machine in the country, at any time, and  
25 not be subject to any usage or withdrawal fees.

1 (C) DISTRIBUTION.—

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

1           the Secretary via any payments mechanism  
2           otherwise authorized by this Act and  
3           deemed appropriate for the circumstances  
4           by the Secretary.

5           (4) REGULATORY TREATMENT OF PAYMENT.—

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

23          (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

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

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

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

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

14 (d) RULES RELATING TO PROGRAM.—

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

1       struction of this database shall be reimbursed di-  
2       rectly by the United States Treasury.

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

1 receipt of written consent of recipients for such infor-  
2 mation to be shared for this purpose.

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

12 (f) FUNDING.—

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

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

1 (g) PRESERVING FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPEND-  
2 ENCE AND EFFICACY OF MONETARY POLICY.—To ensure  
3 that the Program does not unintentionally or unduly inter-  
4 fere with or limit the efficacy of the Federal Reserve Sys-  
5 tem in achieving its statutory obligations, including in par-  
6 ticular with respect to implementation of its monetary pol-  
7 icy objectives, the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-  
8 serve shall be authorized:

9 (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING SECURITIES.—  
10 To issue as Federal reserve notes under section  
11 248(d) of title 12, United States Code, digital secu-  
12 rities, including bills, notes, and bonds, of whatever  
13 maturity, denomination, and yield, as is deemed ap-  
14 propriate and necessary by the Board of Governors  
15 to achieve its statutory objectives under the Federal  
16 Reserve Act, in quantities up to an amount equiva-  
17 lent to the total face value of all platinum coins  
18 issued by the United States Treasury and held as  
19 assets by the Federal Reserve System. Notes issued  
20 under this paragraph shall be sold on the open mar-  
21 ket in a manner similar to the sale of Treasury secu-  
22 rities, and, like Federal reserve notes, shall be con-  
23 sidered direct obligations of the United States under  
24 section 8 of title 18, United States Code, but shall  
25 be recorded for accounting purposes as direct liabil-

1       ities of the Federal Reserve System, and accordingly  
2       shall not be included in calculations of public debt  
3       subject to limit under section 3101 of title 31,  
4       United States Code.

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

1 total amount of net operating profits to be made  
2 available for remittance to the Treasury on an ongoing  
3 basis.

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

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

11 (1) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—

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



1 (B) BOOST PAYMENTS VIA DIGITAL DOL-  
2 LAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—No later than Janu-  
3 ary 1, 2021, 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; and

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