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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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(VICE RANKING MEMBER)
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

September 19, 2024

Mike DeWine
Governor of the State of Ohio
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On May 30 of this year, the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that Direct File, a free tax filing tool operated by Treasury and the IRS, will continue as a permanent option for taxpayers. All 50 states are invited to partner with the IRS to provide Direct File as an option to their residents next year. We urge you to take the necessary steps to provide Ohio taxpayers with the option to use this service in the future.

The IRS piloted a Direct File program during Filing Season 2024. The pilot allowed taxpayers with simple tax situations in 12 states to file taxes for free, directly with the IRS. The results of the pilot indicate the program was well received by taxpayers. Approximately 140,000 taxpayers utilized the tool to claim more than \$90 million in refunds and save an estimated \$5.6 million in tax preparation fees.¹

For this year's pilot, the IRS offered Direct File to eligible taxpayers in states that either entered Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the IRS or have no generally applicable state income tax. The MOUs allowed IRS to guide taxpayers to state-supported tools for filing stand-alone state tax returns once their federal return was complete.

For Filing Season 2025, the IRS is working to broaden the base of taxpayers eligible for Direct File by including more complex tax situations and inviting all 50 states to participate. In inviting remaining states to partner with Direct File for 2025, it is understood that residents in states that choose not to participate will be unable to access this free filing tool next year.


Ohio taxpayers deserve access to this free and simple filing option. For many, the tax filing season can be time consuming, expensive, and confusing, even though most taxpayers have relatively simple returns. The IRS aims to enhance the tax filing experience by offering Direct File as an additional option for taxpayers to utilize, alongside existing free filing options like Free File, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly

¹ "IRS Direct File Pilot Exceeds Usage Goal, Receiving Positive User Ratings and Saving Taxpayers Money." U.S. Department of the Treasury, 26 Apr. 2024, [home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2298](https://www.home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2298).


program. Ohioans should have the same opportunity to access Direct File as they do any other taxpayer assistance program offered by the IRS.

We ask that your administration work with the IRS, Treasury, and the General Assembly to take the necessary steps for Ohio to join the program as soon as possible. Our offices stand ready to assist in this effort to expand free filing options for Ohioans.

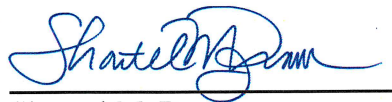
Sincerely,




Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress