Sinead Scott

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Writing Assignment 3

The article “These Taxpayers won’t get stimulus checks. That’s unjust” by Tim Brenne from CNN Business Perspectives discusses a certain bracket of people who are excluded from the stimulus check. As a result of COVID-19, the economy has more or less shut down, leading to many Americans not having jobs and subsequently, leading to an inability to continue contributing to the economy. In an effort to combat this, the US Senate announced that they will send checks of $1200 to most American adults in order to help those who are out of work pay for groceries and housing. However, the proposal only included taxpayers who file their taxes using their Social Security numbers and not those who use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers. The primary group who uses ITIN to file? Undocumented immigrants. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/26/perspectives/stimulus-checks-undocumented-taxpayers/index.html>

This news story is a justice issue because, though it's true undocumneted immigrants are illegally in our country, they still pay taxes. Actually, by 2015 more than 4 million people annually were using ITINs to pay more than $13.7 billion in net taxes, according to Brenne. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants are concentrated in areas that that are likely to be morst immediately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic as the majority work in accomadation and food preparation and servce sectors.

Brenne also states that from an economic perspective the lower-income families, including most of those who pay taxes with their ITIN are going to be the ones who spend the money more quickly because they do not have the financial margin to save it; instead, they will have to cover bills and groceries, immediately putting the money back into the economy. It's not just that these people are excluded from the stimulus package, but they are also ineligible for social programs like food stamps, subsidized housing and Medicaid, putting them at an even higher risk for hunger, homelessness and untreated illnesses. In particular, they are far less likely to get tested for COVID-19. What seems particularly injust about this entire thing is that the undocumented immigrants, though violating the US immigration law, *still* pay taxes. The government still wants their money and yet, even in a crisis such as this, they will not provide any benefits. Were they not taking tax money, the argument may be different, but while they are, they should, at the very least be provided with the stimulus check.