

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Alex J. Adams, PharmD, MPH
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
330 C Street SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Assistant Secretary Adams,

As Members of Congress, we are outraged by your decision to freeze access to critical child care and family assistance funds in New York, California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Colorado. In addition to being unlawful, this action is reckless, unjustified, and profoundly harmful, placing millions of children, working parents, and financially stressed families at immediate risk.

By halting funding under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is jeopardizing the basic stability of families who depend on these programs to remain housed, employed, and financially secure. These programs are lifelines for families already facing significant economic strain.

Child care, in particular, is not a luxury. It is essential to family stability and a functioning economy. This decision forces parents into impossible choices: leaving the workforce, reducing hours, or placing their children in unsafe or unstable care. For families already stretched thin by rising costs, these disruptions can result in lost jobs, housing instability, and long-term harm to children's development.

HHS has justified this freeze by citing alleged administrative failures and fraud, yet has provided no public evidence demonstrating misconduct of any kind that would warrant such an extraordinary and disruptive action. Nor has HHS explained why existing oversight, compliance, and enforcement mechanisms were inadequate to address any identified concerns. If specific instances of misuse or fraud have been identified, they should be addressed through targeted investigations and corrective action, not through a sweeping and indiscriminate funding freeze that punishes families, child care providers, and frontline workers.

Congress appropriated these funds to support children and families, not to be withheld as political retribution. This decision undermines federal-state partnerships, destabilizes child care systems, and erodes confidence in HHS's stewardship of programs fundamental to the economic stability and well-being of children and families.

We urge HHS to immediately reinstate funding flows while providing transparent, evidence-based justification for any claims of misuse, including clear public reporting on investigations, criteria, and decision-making processes used to justify actions of this magnitude. American children and families are not bargaining chips. Their health, safety, and stability must not be compromised by administrative actions.

We expect your immediate attention and response.

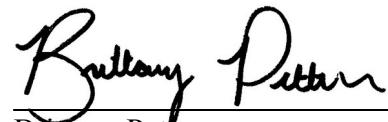
Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
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Patrick Ryan
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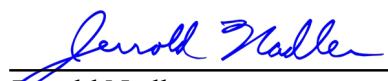
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Lateefah Simon

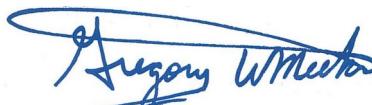
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John W. Mannion

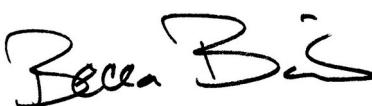
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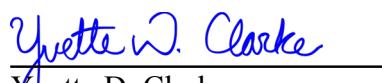
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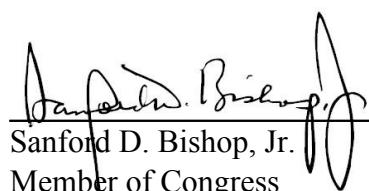
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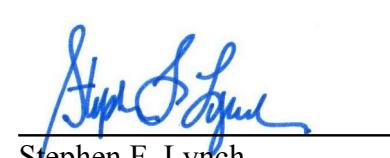
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Lori Trahan
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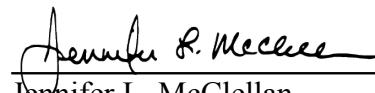
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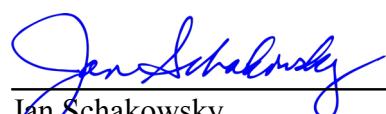
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