

# 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

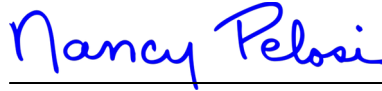
We urge HHS to immediately reinstate funding flows while providing transparent, evidence-based justification for any claims of misuse, including clear public reporting on investigations, criteria, and decision-making processes used to justify actions of this magnitude. American children and families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

We expect your immediate attention and response.

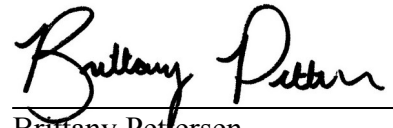
Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



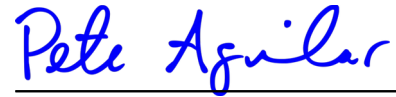
Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



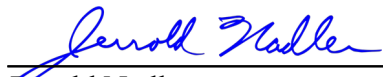
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



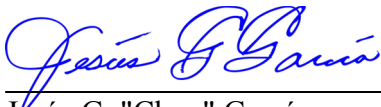
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



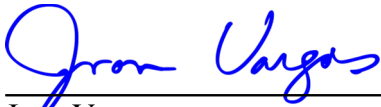
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



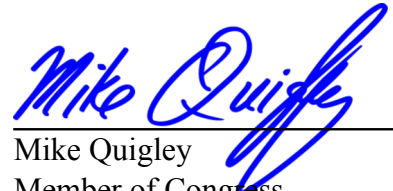
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



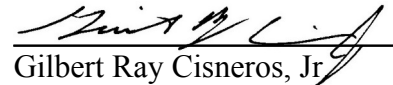
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



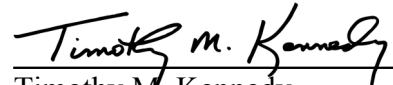
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



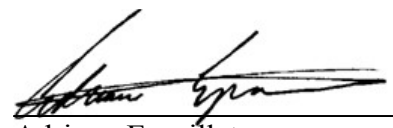
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



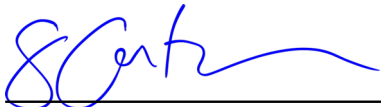
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



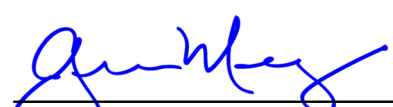
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



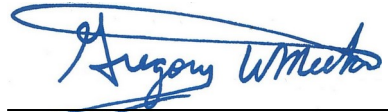
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



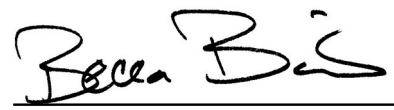
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



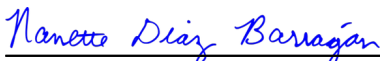
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



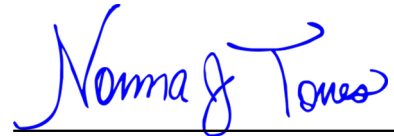
George Latimer  
Member of Congress



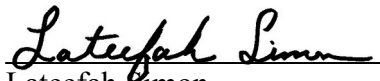
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



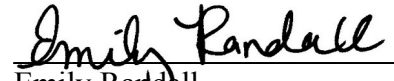
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress




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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



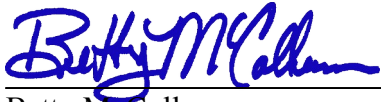
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



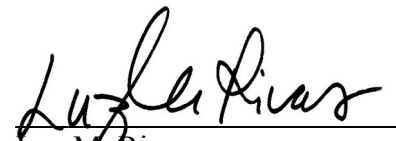
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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



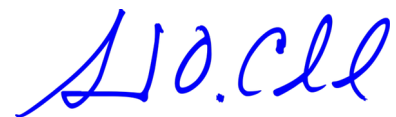
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



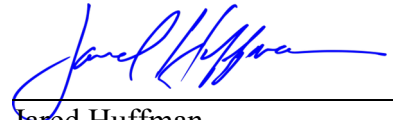
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



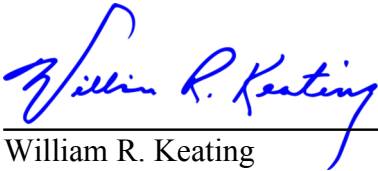
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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



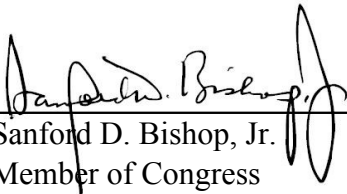
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



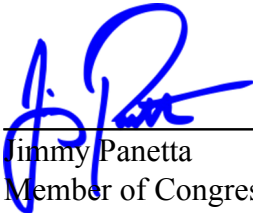
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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



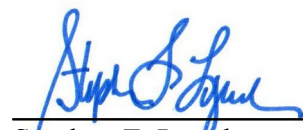
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



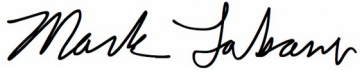
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



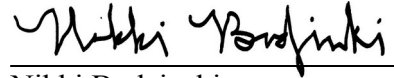
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



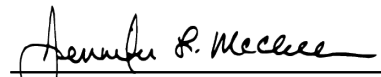
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



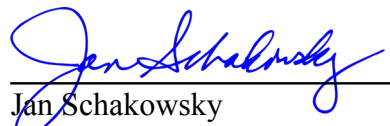
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress