

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

March 28, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to you regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) abrupt cancellation of \$11.4 billion in federal grants that our states have been using for public health services and the cancellation of \$1 billion in funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

You have dangerously framed this as a cost saving measure that pulls back funds no longer necessary, when instead this funding provides invaluable public and mental health services that keep our communities healthy and safe. A cessation of these funds, especially done so hastily, hinders the ability of states and awardees across the nation to protect and serve our fellow Americans.

The CDC funds, originally allocated during the COVID-19 pandemic for use toward testing, vaccination, and monitoring programs – among other uses – remain in use for important public health initiatives across the country. To this day, these funds are used for public health infrastructure like treatment and testing for respiratory diseases, like bird flu, and wastewater surveillance systems, which are helping us monitor the current measles outbreak. While the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023, the need for public health infrastructure did not.

In 2023, 49,316 Americans died by suicide<sup>1</sup> – nearly one death every 11 minutes. Clawing back SAMHSA funds aimed at addressing the substance use crises we are facing and supporting those living with mental illnesses will prove a death sentence for some. These funds were allocated, and states were rightfully depending on them to support the mental health services and supports available to their residents.

On February 25, 2025, the CDC released its prediction that there was a “nearly 24% decline in drug overdose deaths in the United States for the 12 months ending in September 2024, compared to the previous year.”<sup>2</sup> One month later, the careless decision to revoke \$1 billion in

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<sup>1</sup><https://wisqars.cdc.gov/reports/?o=MORT&y1=2023&y2=2023&t=0&i=0&m=20810&g=00&mc=0&s=0&r=0&ry=2&c=0&yp=65&a=ALL&g1=0&g2=199&a1=0&a2=199&r1=INTENT&r2=NONE&r3=NONE&r4=NONE>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2025/2025-cdc-reports-decline-in-us-drug-overdose-deaths.html#:~:text=New%20provisional%20data%20from%20CDC's,compared%20to%20the%20previous%20year.>

SAMHSA funding that goes toward reducing overdose deaths and other mental health services was announced. The predicted decrease in overdose deaths is promising and shows that now is the time to build on that momentum and continue investments in mental health services, not pull the rug out from underneath our communities.

For all too many American families, the addiction epidemic and support for mental health services are deeply personal. We must put politics aside and invest, rather than divest, in evidence-based solutions. Supporting our communities' mental health needs and services requires a sustained, long-term strategy. It requires a multi-pronged approach that includes robust funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

This administration's callous actions to reduce government spending are once again reckless and done without regard to the communities they will harm. We urge you to reverse this decision and resume the flow of funds that help save lives.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



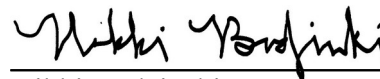
Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



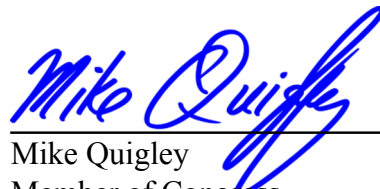
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



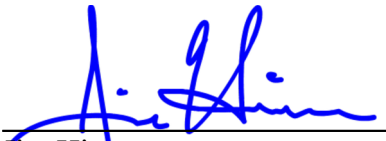
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

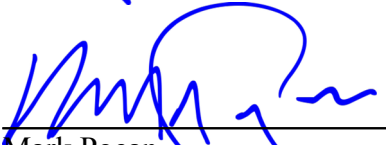


Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



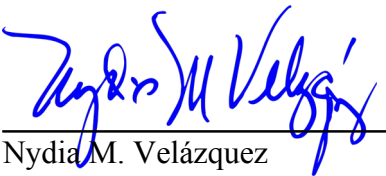
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress




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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



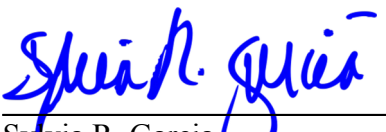
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




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



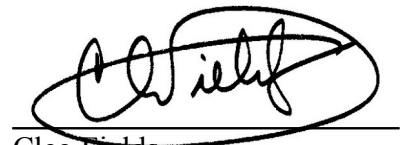
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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress




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Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress




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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress




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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress




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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress




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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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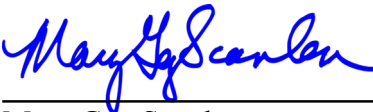
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



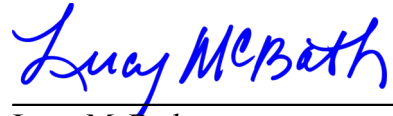
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



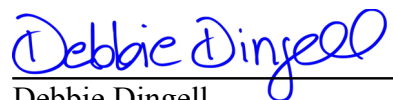
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



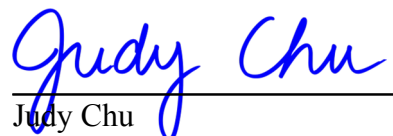
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



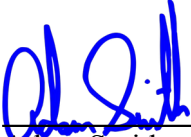
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

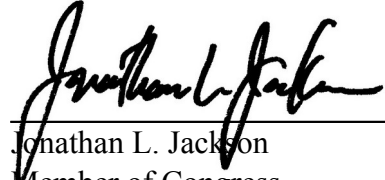


Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



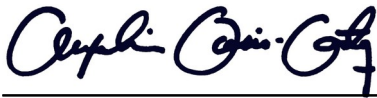
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



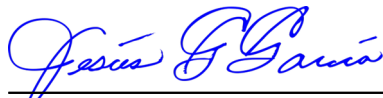
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



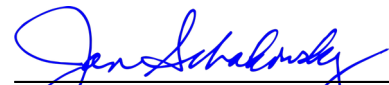
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



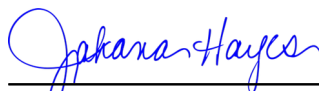
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



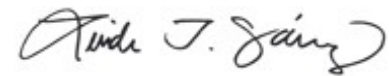
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Cohen" clearly distinguishable.

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress