

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2025

Matthew J. Vaeth
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dorothy A. Fink, M.D.
Acting Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Director Vaeth and Acting Secretary Fink:

We write to you today as members of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce's Subcommittee on Health. Our subcommittee has broad jurisdiction over health care policy, including health insurance programs, biomedical research, drug and device regulation, and public health. We are highly concerned about the unconstitutional and indiscriminate cessation of federal funding for research, public health activities, treatment programs, and more, which is having an immediate and deleterious impact on our communities.

On January 27, 2025, OMB issued Memorandum M-25-13, ("Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs") directing a cease to "all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance." Since the issuance of that memorandum, our offices and those of our colleagues have been inundated by outreach from entities carrying out critical functions in our districts that are unable to access funding that has been awarded to them or to which they are otherwise entitled. This stoppage of disbursements and other activities related to Federal financial assistance has had immediate impacts on our constituents and those of every Member of Congress.

This morning, many of us heard from community health centers in our districts that they were unable to access funds under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. Community health centers often run on very thin margins and with little cash on hand. Some centers have alerted their Members of Congress they will be unable to make payroll due to this freeze. In addition, programs to support individuals with HIV, provide vaccines to uninsured children, and more may not receive the funding they need to continue providing lifesaving services under this freeze.

We are also concerned funds appropriated by Congress to address the mental health and substance use disorder crisis are being held by the administration under this freeze. Programs that may be impacted include the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and state grants to address the opioid crisis. This will lead to disruptions in care for individuals struggling with addiction and other mental health disorders.

Furthermore, this funding freeze will have a highly negative impact on biomedical research, including research to find treatments and cures for cancer, HIV, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and more. We know from experience delays in funding to researchers disrupts work and puts

scientific advances at risk. A cessation of research funding, however long it may last, is irresponsible and will hinder advancements that help all of our constituents.

These examples do not fully encompass the impact of this funding freeze and the full impact will become clear over the coming days and weeks. It is unconscionable American lives and livelihoods are being put at risk due to this reckless and unconstitutional funding freeze. While we are heartened that a federal judge has placed a temporary stay on parts of OMB's order, it is imperative that this threat be withdrawn. We demand that funding authorized by Congress proceed unimpeded.

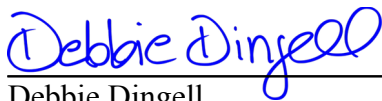
Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Health



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



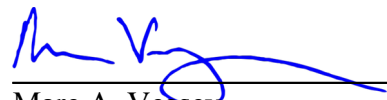
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



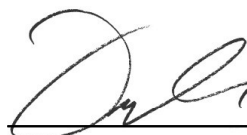
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



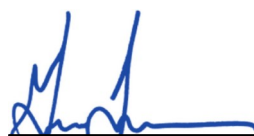
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

Cc: Ben Goldhaber, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families
Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator, Administration for Community Living
Renee Wegrzyn, Ph.D., Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health
Mamatha S. Pancholi, Deputy Director for Programs, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Susan Monarez, PhD, Acting Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Jeff Wu, Acting Administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Sara Brenner, M.D., M.P.H, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
Diana Espinosa, Acting Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration
Benjamin Smith, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service
Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S., Acting Director, National Institutes of Health
Tom Coderre, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration