

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2026

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Junior  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write with deep concern over reports that the Department of Health and Human Services is once again recklessly cutting funding to critical public health programs. Reports have indicated the Administration intends to cut approximately \$600 million in public health funding to California, Colorado, Illinois, and Minnesota, with millions of dollars in confirmed grant terminations so far.<sup>1</sup> These cuts will unnecessarily hamstring our state and local public health departments and community organizations, putting our constituents' health at risk. We urge you to restore this funding immediately.

A significant portion of the reported grant terminations target public health infrastructure grants, which help state and local public health departments improve “prevention, preparedness, and response to emerging health threats.”<sup>2</sup> Cutting these grants during a historic measles outbreak is particularly dangerous. Already this year, two new outbreaks of measles have been reported, and 866 cases of measles have been confirmed – compared to 71 cases at this time last year.<sup>3</sup> Functionally, public health infrastructure grants are one of the core funding streams allowing health departments the capacity to track, identify, and mitigate infectious disease outbreaks in local and state jurisdictions. Other reportedly terminated grants focus on preventing infectious disease among high-risk populations.<sup>4</sup> It is unconscionable to cut funding for these critical services while cases of a highly infectious and deadly disease are growing exponentially.

In addition, we are dismayed to see the administration once again targeting the most vulnerable members of our communities, seemingly out of political spite. Another significant portion of the impacted grants – that we are aware of thus far – support our efforts to end the HIV epidemic and support individuals living with HIV. Other impacted grants support public health and prevention

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/health/trump-public-health-cuts-california.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/infrastructure-phig/about/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/ivac/2025/us-measles-cases-hit-highest-level-since-declared-eliminated-in-2000>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/health/trump-public-health-cuts-california.html>

initiatives for racial and ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+ populations.<sup>5</sup> This blatant targeting is plainly discriminatory and potentially illegal. We remind the administration that following similar efforts to rescind National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for research related to racial and ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+ individuals, a federal court found the discrimination to be “appalling” and “palpably clear,” and ordered funding to be restored immediately.<sup>6</sup>

These cuts continue an alarming trend of the Administration repeatedly disregarding the critical work of state and local public health departments and their community partners. In March 2025, the Trump administration attempted to cut over \$12 billion in state public health funding<sup>7</sup> before being blocked by a court.

We are concerned this is also reflective of a larger trend of unlawful attacks by the President and his Administration on his enemies—namely, Democratic states. This administration has weaponized federal funding on numerous occasions since January 2025 – most recently attempting to freeze \$10 billion in federal funding for childcare, disability services, emergency shelter, and direct cash assistance to organizations in California, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, and Colorado under the false pretense of rooting out fraud.<sup>8</sup> The administration also ordered a broad review of all federal funding in 14 states and Washington, D.C. – all Democratic states or jurisdictions.<sup>9</sup>

We request written responses to the following, no later than February 13, 2026:

1. Please provide a full list of grants terminated at the CDC or other agencies within HHS in connection with this action, both currently terminated grants and those being considered for termination in the coming weeks.
2. Please provide a detailed rationale for why impacted grants are “inconsistent with agency priorities.”
3. What is the Department’s justification for targeting grants only in California, Colorado, Illinois, and Minnesota?
4. Is the Department planning to rescind public health funding in additional states, including but not limited to the 14 states and Washington D.C. mandated for federal funding review?
  - a. If so, please provide a full list of grants under consideration for rescission in those states, and a detailed rationale for why impacted grants are “inconsistent with agency priorities.”

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/health/trump-public-health-cuts-california.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/16/judge-rebuke-trump-nih-cuts-00409095>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/26/health/trump-state-health-grants-cuts.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/06/us/politics/child-care-funding-cuts-trump.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=0000019b-e709-d1ea-a5df-f78daa330000>

It is within your power to end this cycle of alarming actions to erode public health. We strongly urge you to reverse these terminations, as the real-world consequences for the health and safety of all Americans is at stake.

Sincerely,



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



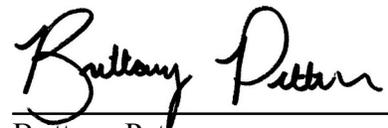
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



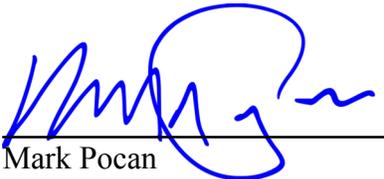
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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Petterson  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



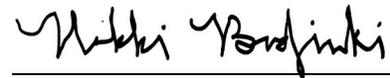
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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



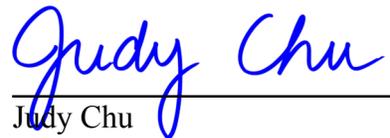
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



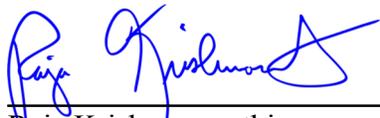
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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



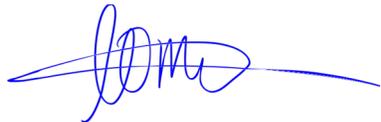
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



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Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



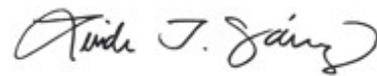
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



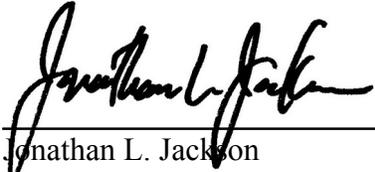
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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



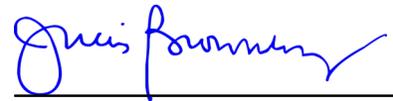
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress