

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Russel Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Susan Monarez
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Vought and Director Monarez,

We write with serious concerns regarding reports that the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has blocked critical public health grants funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The reported freezing of as much as \$300 million in CDC grant funds – primarily within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control – has a direct and immediate impact on state and local public health departments and other public health organizations that rely on federal funding streams. Accordingly, we demand that the Trump administration discontinue this dangerous practice and immediately release congressionally obligated funds for core public health programs.

As you know, the CDC is responsible for executing the federal government’s response for disease prevention and improved public health outcomes through scientific research. Through annual discretionary and mandatory appropriations, CDC funds critical research and development initiatives for disease surveillance, cancer prevention, health education, and public health emergency preparedness, among others. Many of these funding streams go directly to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments as well as external stakeholders with CDC’s shared goals. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, CDC awarded 6,982 grants totaling over \$12.6 billion, with 70 percent of grant awards going to government entities across the country to support programs directly at the community level.¹ In New York, a state with 31 drug overdoses per 100,000 residents, CDC funding in FY23 helped advance the continuation of essential drug-free community support programs.² In Colorado, CDC investments supported partnerships to study, register, and prevent Sudden Unexpected Infant Death cases.³ And in Texas, over \$3 million in FY23 funding helped state and local officials prevent tobacco use and educate impacted

¹ Sekar, Kavya. *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. (March 20, 2025)

<https://crs.gov/Reports/IF12241?source=search>

² *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fiscal Year 2023 Grants Summary Profile Report for New York*.

https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/Report_Docs/PDFDocs/Rpt2023/New-York-2023-CDC-Grants-Profile-Report.pdf

³ *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fiscal Year 2023 Grants Summary Profile Report for Colorado*.

https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/Report_Docs/PDFDocs/Rpt2023/Colorado-2023-CDC-Grants-Profile-Report.pdf

populations.⁴ The positive impact of CDC investments in both red and blue states cannot be overstated and has real consequences when placed in jeopardy by this administration.

According to recent reporting, OMB has directed CDC to freeze disbursement of funding for as much as \$300 million in grants, blocking key support for programs within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.⁵ Reporting suggests that OMB has issued directives through appropriations memorandums to justify the illegal withholding of congressionally obligated funds, underscoring OMB's fundamental misunderstanding of provisions in the Constitution and in existing case law denying the President the ability to decline spending of appropriations funds. Programs impacted fund initiatives to prevent and address tobacco use, mental health disorders, kidney disease, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, alcohol use, epilepsy, obesity, and others.⁶ Additionally, as guns remain the leading cause of death for children and teens, funding within CDC's Injury Center has also been frozen, negatively impacting states' ongoing battle against the gun violence epidemic and youth violence prevention more broadly. These federal funds have been congressionally obligated and are depended upon by the local health departments that execute lifesaving health initiatives. Funding delays directly harm our constituents who depend on these services, particularly those in rural and underserved communities.

More broadly, canceling, freezing, or delaying obligated public health funds under the guise of "programmatic review" has become a troubling pattern during this administration.⁷ Just last month, the Trump administration withheld \$140 million from a key CDC overdose data collection cooperative agreement that funds 90 health departments across the U.S.⁸ As a result, this funding uncertainty left state and local grant recipients in limbo, forced to consider cuts to contracts and staffing instrumental to opioid use prevention efforts. In July, OMB attempted to block all funding flowing to outside health researchers, which included roughly \$15 billion in NIH funding for medical research.⁹ Relatedly, the Department of Health and Human Services was found to be in violation of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 when it terminated and froze funding for nearly 1,800 NIH grants between February and June of 2025.¹⁰ In addition to

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fiscal Year 2023 Grants Summary Profile Report for Texas.

https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/Report_Docs/PDFDocs/Rpt2023/Texas-2023-CDC-Grants-Profile-Report.pdf

5 Mann, Brian and Simmons-Duffin, Selena. *CDC to Disburse Delayed Funds for Fighting Fentanyl and More, Staffers Say*. NPR. (August 5, 2025) <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/08/05/nx-s1-5493279/cdc-funding-freeze-overdose-omb>

6 Subbaraman, Nidhi. *Trump Administration Blocks Funding for CDC Health Programs*. Wall Street Journal. (August 1, 2025) https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-cdc-funding-freeze-79e7090f?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAhNjehEEUlmBCo-AwljO_hvpiQxqyOmhcciRkfpHnwbxKkwTq6f0IJ6kPiHBI%3D&gaa_ts=6893956a&gaa_sig=c31rSjZ0IXWBBRmNDvZXktvTHk7EB2AfNT6Hao2O4ociABW8pda5imwbeU4b_unPTMgw47y-tzXVKxyZ_KhnA%3D%3D

7 *Ibid*.

8 Mann, Brian and Simmons-Duffin, Selena. *CDC to Disburse Delayed Funds for Fighting Fentanyl and More, Staffers Say*. NPR. (August 5, 2025) <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/08/05/nx-s1-5493279/cdc-funding-freeze-overdose-omb>

9 Subbaraman, Nidhi; Thomas, Ken; and Whyte Essley, Liz. *Trump Administration Scraps Effort to Pause Health-Research Funding*. (July 29, 2025) https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-administration-puts-new-chokehold-on-billions-in-health-research-funding-19660215?mod=article_inline

10 Matter of: Department of Health and Human Services - National Institutes of Health - Application of Impoundment Control Act to Availability of Funds for Grants. (August 5, 2025) <https://www.gao.gov/products/b-337203>

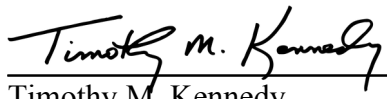
future limitations on medical advancements, these actions raise serious concerns regarding local health departments' ability to remain prepared and fully staffed during infectious disease outbreaks, weather-related crises, bioterrorism threats, chemical or nuclear events, and beyond.

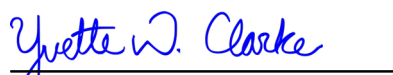
We ask that OMB immediately release the withheld CDC funding and provide responses to the following questions by August 22, 2025:

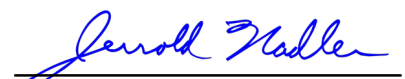
1. Which specific grants through CDC are being withheld and how many state and local agencies and organizations are expected to be impacted? Please provide a full, detailed list of grant recipients affected, as well as their congressional districts and funding years being disrupted.
2. To what extent has CDC engaged with impacted grant recipients on a timeline for release of withheld funds?
3. What specific authority in existing federal statute is OMB using to justify these illegal actions?
4. What are the parameters being employed for OMB's "programmatic review" used to block National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control funds?
5. Given concerns that other authorized and obligated funds may be at risk, how is CDC working to obligate remaining Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program preparedness contract funding for 2024-2025?

As Members of Congress, we have constituents and local organizations impacted by these irresponsible funding freezes and have received urgent outreach expressing deep concern about the impacts of this administration's actions. Without reliable, regular, and renewed public health investments from the federal government, this administration risks undoing decades of advancements in disease prevention. We demand that OMB immediately release obligated CDC funds and continue much-needed investments in our communities. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

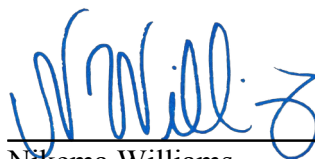

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



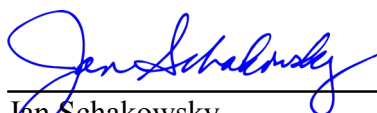
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



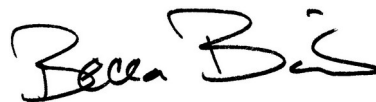
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



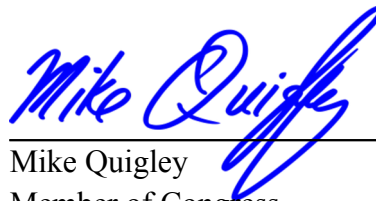
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



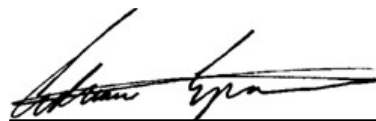
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



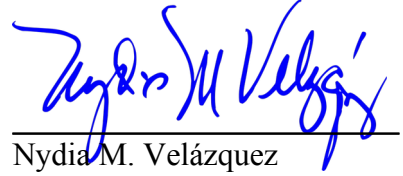
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



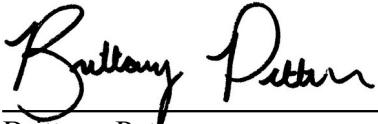
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



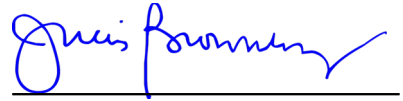
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



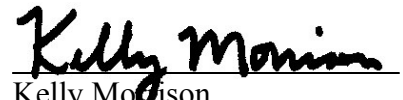
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



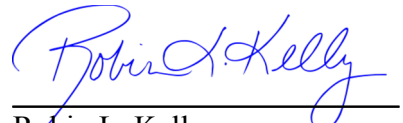
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
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