

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Alex J. Adams, PharmD, MPH  
Assistant Secretary

Administration for Children and Families  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Assistant Secretary Adams,

As Members of the California Delegation, we write in strong opposition to the illegal cancelation of congressionally authorized and appropriated childcare and social services funds<sup>1</sup>. Between noticed cancelations of Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, and social services grants, the Trump Administration is cutting billions in critical childcare and social services funds to California.

We urge the Health and Human Services Department to restore these funds immediately and ensure that Californians have the same access to childcare as every other state. Childcare access is a lifeline for working families, and cutting funding will hurt children, parents, and workers across California. In California alone, CCDBG funds serve almost 90,000 children,<sup>2</sup> and TANF serves over 290,000 families.<sup>3</sup> These programs are vital lifelines for Californians, and their funding should not be cut over unsubstantiated allegations of fraud.

TANF is one of the country's largest funding sources for childcare, providing over a quarter of childcare funds nationwide.<sup>4</sup> These cuts will decimate California's childcare industry and harm countless children and families across the state. CalWORKS, California's TANF program, also provides vital cash assistance to struggling Californians each month to help pay for food, housing, and other necessities.<sup>5</sup> SSBG programs provide Californians with disability services,

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<sup>1</sup> Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-37), SEC. 106.  
<https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ37/PLAW-119publ37.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Administration for Children and Families (ACF): [State plans FY 2025-2027; 2025-California-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> Administration for Children and Families (ACF): [TANF Caseload Data 2024 | The Administration for Children and Families](#)

<sup>4</sup> Bipartisan Policy Center: [BPC Fact-Sheet TANF California\\_final2023.pdf](#)

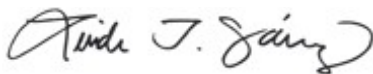
<sup>5</sup> CalHHS: [Counts and Status of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids \(CalWORKS\) Applications - Dataset - California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal](#)

foster care and child welfare services, and child care.<sup>6</sup> These funds help keep families afloat, and cutting their benefits without cause is nothing more than political theater.

There are legitimate legal courses of action should fraud exist in California, but none of those legal processes have taken place. For childcare funds, 42 U.S. Code § 9858g (b)(2)(A) and (b)(2) (B)<sup>7</sup> require “reasonable notice to a State and opportunity for a hearing,” neither of which have taken place. 42 U.S. Code § 609 requires an audit be conducted “under chapter 75 of title 31,” and states that “if the State does not prove to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State did not use the amount in violation... the Secretary shall further reduce the grant payable to the State” – no such audit has taken place in California<sup>8</sup>. This funding was authorized and appropriated by Congress, and you are required by law to distribute it.

This partisan attack alleges that “Democrat-led states... have been complicit in allowing massive amounts of fraud to occur under their watch” without providing a shred of evidence.<sup>9</sup> We urge you to leave California’s families out of your political attacks, and to reinstate these dollars immediately.

Sincerely,



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



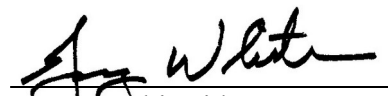
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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress

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<sup>6</sup> [Title XX Social Services Block Grant Pre-Expenditure Report ; Social Services Block Grant Program \(SSBG\) | The Administration for Children and Families](#)

<sup>7</sup> [42 USC 9858g: Administration and enforcement](#)

<sup>8</sup> [42 USC 609: Penalties](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Politico: Trump targets handful of blue states with \\$10 billion cut to child care funds - POLITICO](#)



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



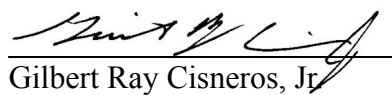
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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



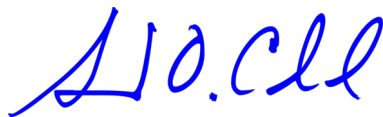
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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



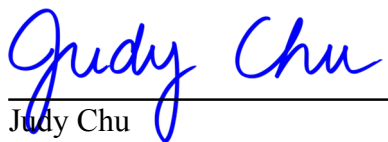
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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



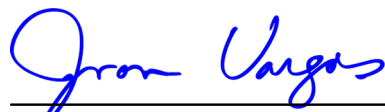
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



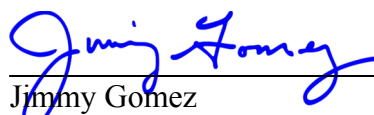
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress