

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 7th, 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 today regarding your Department's sudden decision to terminate grants and claw back funds that were previously awarded to our constituents and New Hampshire communities. We urge you to reverse this harmful decision immediately and restore funding to ensure our frontline health care professionals can continue addressing public health crises and responding to the ongoing substance use and mental health epidemic.

During his first term, President Trump declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency, stating, "We can be the generation that ends the opioid epidemic." It seems that is no longer a goal of the current administration. Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) terminated approximately \$80 million in public health funding for New Hampshire, including programs administered by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Our state government, communities and health providers were using those dollars daily to address the urgent needs of Granite Staters, including for treating mental health and substance use disorders. Despite having until 2027 to spend the funding, overnight they were notified that future awards would not be honored and that many grantees would not be reimbursed for services already rendered.

For New Hampshire, this harmful decision to eliminate funding weakens our state's ability to respond to infectious disease outbreaks, cuts support services for individuals suffering from mental health crises and substance use disorders and undermines efforts to adequately care for rural and underserved populations. Our state and local health departments have been forced to cancel work to control a tuberculosis outbreak in Manchester. This decision has also frozen contracts that provide on rapid response to individuals in mental health crises, support for patients transitioning from behavioral health facilities, post-traumatic stress training for first responders and immunization programs for our youth. Staff across the state have already been terminated, and these terminations include our vital community health workers serving our most at-risk populations. Communities and organizations across New Hampshire, including community health centers, hospitals, mental health providers, schools and small businesses, are currently left without resources and holding the bag on already promised funding.

Clawing back these funds does nothing to improve our state's public health system. Instead, you are needlessly putting our communities' health at risk and jeopardizing our constituents' livelihoods and their organizations. We urge you to reinstate this vital funding immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Shaheen".

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Pappas".

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Goodlander".

Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress