



March 6, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we are deeply concerned about the impacts that the recent firings of federal employees at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will have on women and families. Valuable early childhood education and child care programs are housed within HHS under the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). We demand you immediately reinstate any ACF federal employees whom HHS fired and not remove any others.

We understand that HHS fired approximately 5,200 probationary employees.¹ Within the ACF, we have heard that the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care lost 20 and 25 percent of their respective staff. These actions will devastate the over 778,420 children and their families in every corner of the country who rely on Head Start for child care and education.² While Elon Musk believes that women and families who benefit from these programs are parasites, we know that these programs provide hard working families with crucial services.³ Further, it is the dedicated federal workers who allow these essential services to support families across the nation.

Thousands of families will feel the ripple effects of these firings across the country. By significantly reducing ACF staff, programs could experience delays in receiving grants and technical assistance to access their funds. If they are not able to access funds, this could result in layoffs of local staff, a decrease in services, and delays or difficulties in addressing facility issues that may lead to potential closures. Additionally, the data shows that without sufficient child care both families and the economy will suffer. The federal workers who serve in the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care are integral to making sure families can access affordable, high-quality care and education.

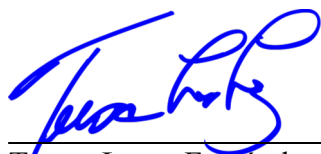
1 Stobbe, M., & Johnson, C. K. (2025, February 15). HHS is losing thousands of workers under Trump administration probationary job cuts. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/trump-job-cuts-health-cdc-0d002fd6f528a7b91ced79628bf68196>

2 Head Start. (2025, February 24). *Head start program facts: Fiscal Year 2023*. HeadStart.gov. <https://headstart.gov/program-data/article/head-start-program-facts-fiscal-year-2023>

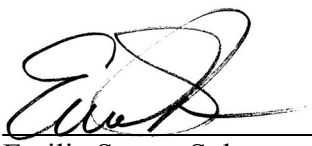
3 Musk, Elon (2025, February 13). Archived X post. Archive Today. <https://archive.ph/eu8P8>

We demand you reinstate the federal employees who worked within the Administration of Children and Families and not remove any others. Women and families deserve your urgent and immediate action. We look forward to seeing you fix this dangerous situation for children and families.

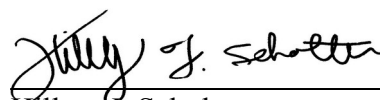
Sincerely,



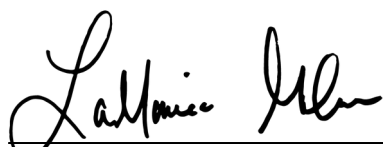
Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



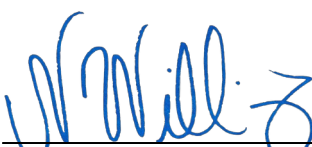
Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



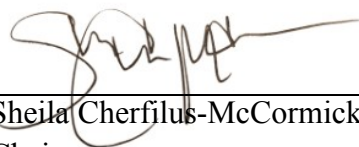
Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



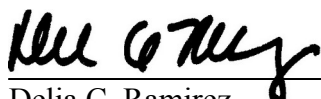
LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Chair
Global Women's Issues Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



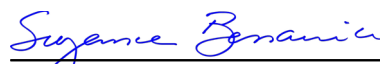
Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



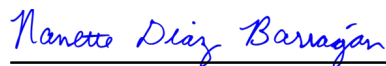
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



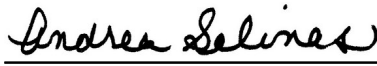
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



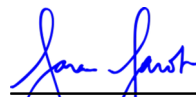
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



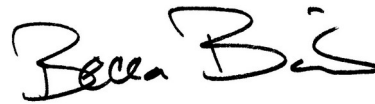
Sara Jacobs
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Shontel M. Brown
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



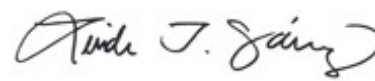
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



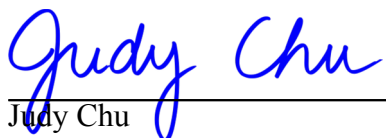
JM Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



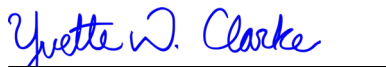
Judy Chu
Co-Chair & Liaison
Reproductive Health Care
Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Brittany Petterson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



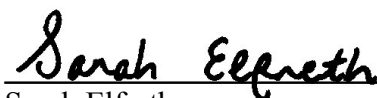
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Chair
Servicewomen Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Norma J. Torres
New Democrat Coalition
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
National Leaders &
Advocacy Organizations
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



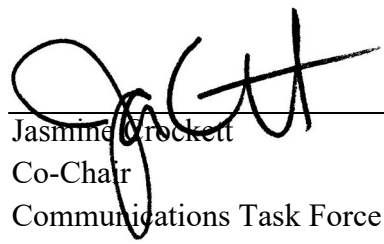
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



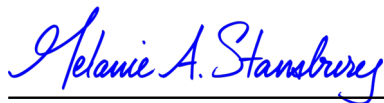
Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Pramila Jayapal
Congressional Asian Pacific
American Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus