

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Secretary Kennedy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to express deep concern regarding the reduction in force and reorganization plans at the United States Department of Health and Human Services, which has resulted in the closure of at least five Office of Head Start regional offices today. The abrupt closures—without a clearly communicated transition plan—puts services and education for our nation’s most vulnerable children and families at risk.

Regional Head Start offices are not expendable—they act as essential bridges between local Head Start centers and the federal government which provide necessary funding to support their work. The dedicated program and fiscal specialists who staff these offices ensure that Head Start programs nationwide are equipped to provide high-quality early childhood education and support services. Their guidance and expertise help local programs navigate complex federal regulations and provide early learning, health and family services to nearly 750,000 children across the country.


According to the National Head Start Association, *less than one percent* of Head Start’s annual funding is spent on federal staff, making it a cost-effective federal investment in our children’s futures. Removing these support structures without an alternative plan or clear communication on the impact, jeopardizes the reliability and quality of services that so many families depend on.

We the undersigned request answers to the following questions by April 7th, 2025:

1. What criteria did the Department of Health and Human Services use to determine which of the regional offices to close?
2. At what point were staff at regional offices notified that their office would be closing?
3. How does the Department of Health and Human Services plan to support Head Start programs across the country and communicate the impact of the closure of regional offices to states, localities, and all relevant parties?

All children deserve quality education and services to support their early development during the most crucial years of childhood. An investment in Head Start and the regional offices that support them should remain a top priority. We urge you to reconsider the closure of the five regional offices and provide us with a timely response.

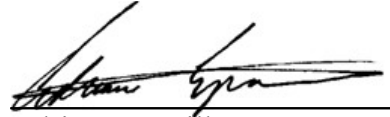
Sincerely,



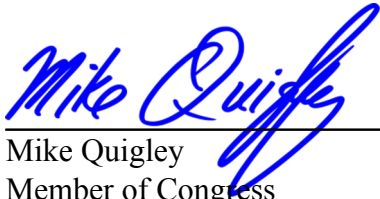
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



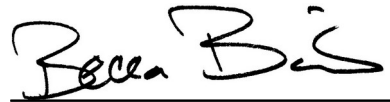
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
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Becca Balint
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Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



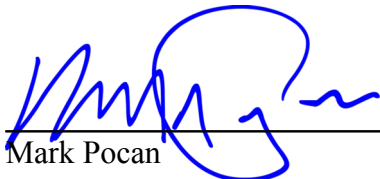
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



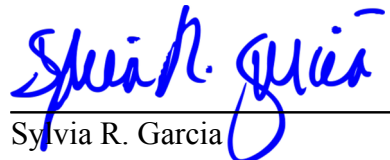
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



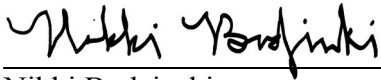
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



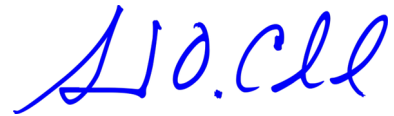
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



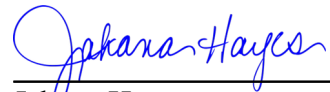
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



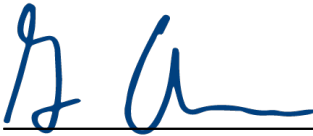
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



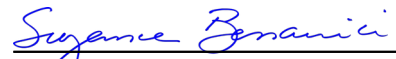
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Kevin Mullin
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Seth Magaziner
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Dwight Evans
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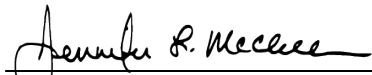
Haley M. Stevens
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



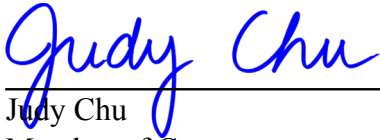
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



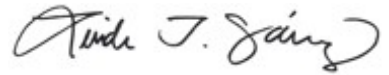
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



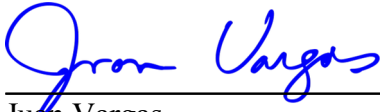
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



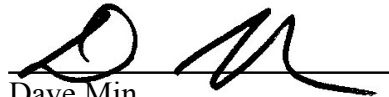
Judy Chu
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Dave Min
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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