



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to oppose the Trump Administration’s unlawful proposals to freeze funding to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and nonprofit organizations, including critical grants to secure the homeland.

On January 27, the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum ordering Federal agencies to immediately stop “obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance.”¹ This memorandum understandably prompted panic as the Trump Administration signaled it would renege on funding for programs across the Federal Government that millions of Americans depend on. A Federal court intervened, saying the funding freeze could cause “irreparable harm” and blocked its implementation.² The White House rescinded the memorandum on January 29.³

Nevertheless, Trump officials continue to sow confusion about whether the administration plans to freeze grant funds. In a tweet after the OMB memorandum was rescinded, the White House insisted that it was not actually rescinding the funding freeze.⁴ Adding to the chaos, in an appearance on cable news, you said that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department) had stopped providing grant funding to non-governmental organizations.⁵ The Department has not clarified your statement or assured the public the Department will honor its funding obligations. This is unacceptable.

¹ *Read the Memo Pausing Federal Grants and Loans*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/27/us/omb-memo.html>.

² *Id.*

³ Kaitlan Collins, et al., *White House rescinds memo on federal aid freeze that caused widespread confusion*, CNN, Jan. 29, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/29/politics/white-house-rescind-federal-funding-freeze/index.html>.

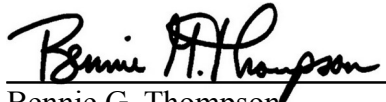
⁴ Dan Mangan and Kevin Breuninger, *White House says Trump funding freeze remains in effect despite rescinding OMB memo*, CNBC, Jan. 29, 2025, <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/01/29/white-house-rescinds-federal-funds-freeze-memo.html>.

⁵ Alexandra Koch, *Sec. Noem says Homeland Security will freeze grants to non-governmental organizations*, FOX NEWS, Jan. 29, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/sec-noem-says-homeland-security-freeze-grants-non-governmental-organizations>.

Since 9/11, DHS grants to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and nonprofits have been integral to protecting communities against terrorist attacks, securing houses of worship, helping people respond to natural disasters, securing our cyber networks, and providing police and firefighters necessary equipment. Leaving grantees in limbo while the administration determines what its own policies mean is irresponsible, and freezing these funds makes our communities less safe. Americans deserve better than being governed by concepts of a plan.

We urge you to reject President Trump's reckless efforts to withhold these critical grant funds and reassure the American people that, as Secretary, you will support homeland security grants our constituents rely on.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security



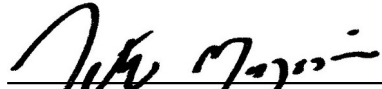
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
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Seth Magaziner
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Dan Goldman
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Delia C. Ramirez
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Timothy M. Kennedy
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LaMonica McIver
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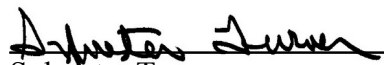
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Sylvester Turner
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Mark E. Green, M.D., Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security