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President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

January 6, 2026

Dear President Trump and Secretary Kennedy,

I write today with deep concern about the freeze in federal funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and the Social Services Block Grant program in New York. I urge you to reinstate this funding immediately and preserve this critical aid for American families most in need.

On January 5, 2026, the Administration announced a pause in funding for TANF, CCDF, and Social Services Block Grants to five states due to concerns of waste, fraud, and abuse. This comes after the astounding fraud scam in Minnesota, in which millions of dollars were stolen from the state's welfare programs. This abuse is disgusting. There should be investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of everyone involved, including any state officials who allowed it to happen.

In New York, a separate scandal came to light last year. In September, the New York State Comptroller released an audit that found the state paid almost \$1.2 billion in Medicaid premiums for non-New York residents. The Comptroller found multiple issues with how the state identified out-of-state individuals enrolled in New York's Medicaid program, and did not recoup these incorrect payments.

There's no question that the organizations and officials involved in these scandals purposely defrauded the government. And in some states, there is a complete lack of transparency and accountability when it comes to fixing problems once they come up. But it's not just in TANF and similar programs. There is waste, fraud, and abuse across all levels of government, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

We need to take these crises seriously, but we also need to tackle them responsibly. We must eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. There should be arrests, accountability, and congressional oversight. We need a massive crackdown to prevent these scams in the future. But, critically, we can and should do all of this without arbitrarily cutting off critical safety nets for the good Americans who rely on these programs and have no role in cases of fraud.

I implore you to reverse course on the federal funding pause in TANF, CCDF, and Social Services Block Grants to New York, and restore access to these necessary programs immediately. And I look forward to working with you on effective policies to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lawler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lawler".

Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress