

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Oz:

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we write to express strong opposition to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) extreme and unprecedented action to defer \$1.1 billion in federal funding tied to California's In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.¹

IHSS is a type of state and federally Medicaid-funded Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) that enables eligible seniors, adults with disabilities, and children to remain safely in their own homes rather than in an institutional setting, like a nursing facility. The IHSS program currently serves over 900,000 Californians who rely on the services to support their activities of daily life, such as bathing, dressing, cooking, cleaning, medication administration, accompaniment to medical appointments, and protective supervision for those who require 24-hour supervision.^{2,3}

CMS has targeted California's IHSS program and other HCBS programs across the country by using claims of "waste, fraud, and abuse" as a smoke screen to rip health care away from millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid-funded HCBS.^{4,5} The undersigned Members agree that there should be efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse to ensure bad actors are held accountable. If the Trump Administration were serious about addressing fraud, it would take actions based on evidence, according to federal law, and aimed at improving program integrity. Yet CMS has chosen to defer significant funds for these services across the board, which will impact all recipients and providers. CMS' primary basis for fraud claims is the growth in California's IHSS expenditures, when in fact the state of California has provided reasonable explanations for this growth in spending as a result of intentional and purposeful investments to ensure care for this population.⁶

In addition, Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration are harming patients through \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act and undermining actual efforts to fight fraud, including the Administration's decision to fire at least 17 inspectors general, including the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services.^{7,8}

¹ [Trump officials hit California with 'largest ever' freeze on Medicaid funds - CalMatters](#)

² [DHCS News Release: Federal Deferral of IHSS Funds \(May 14, 2026\)](#)

³ [In-Home Supportive Services: California's Personal Caregiving Program - Justice in Aging](#)

⁴ [Federal Government's Attacks on Medicaid Are a Pretext to Weaken the Program and Punish Particular States | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

⁵ [Trends in Users and Expenditures for HCBS as a Share of Total Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports Users and Expenditures, 2023](#)

⁶ [The 2026-27 Budget: In-Home Supportive Services](#)

⁷ [Federal Government's Attacks on Medicaid Are a Pretext to Weaken the Program and Punish Particular States | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

⁸ [Undoing Accountability: An Update on Trump's Attacks on Inspectors General - Public Citizen](#)

Medi-Cal is the primary payer and often the only option for low-income older adults and people with disabilities to receive the care they need. Reducing access to IHSS and other HCBS threatens the health and financial stability of seniors, adults with disabilities, and children as well as the providers who care for them. This funding deferral could force the state to reduce IHSS services, increasing the risk of people forced into homelessness or institutional care settings, both of which are far more expensive to the federal government.^{9,10,11}

We urge CMS to reverse course and immediately restore the IHSS funds, protecting seniors and people with disabilities as well as the caregivers who support them.

Sincerely,



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



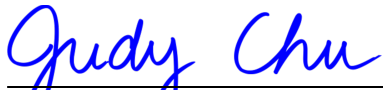
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Member of Congress
Chair, California Democratic
Congressional Delegation



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress

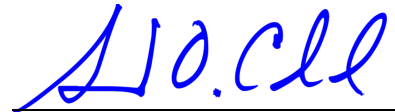
⁹ [Californians Receiving In-Home Care Fear Medicaid Cuts Will Spell End to Independent Living - California Healthline](#)

¹⁰ [The Costs and Harms of Homelessness - Community Solutions](#)

¹¹ [Home and Community-Based Services Improve Outcomes While Reducing Costs](#)



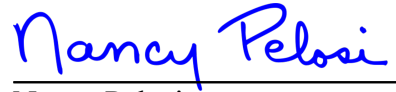
Brad Sherman
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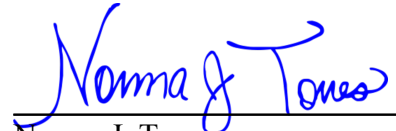
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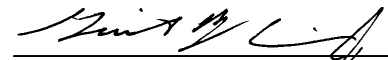
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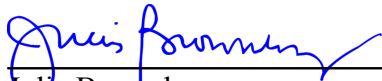
Lateefah Simon
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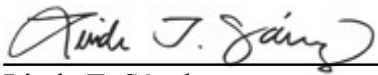
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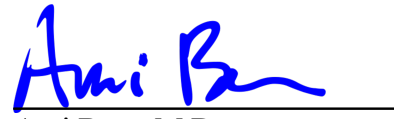

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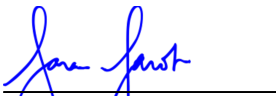

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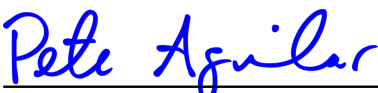

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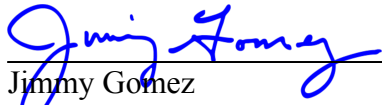

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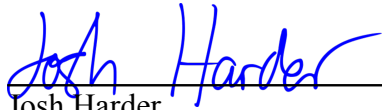

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Josh Harder
Member of Congress

CC: Vice President, J.D. Vance

CC: Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.