

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought:

We write to express our deep concerns with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed rule, "*Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*," released on May 29, 2026. This rule would revise Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, otherwise known as "Uniform Guidance,"¹ and it carries significant implications for our mental health and substance use disorder services and systems. Uniform Guidance has existed for over a decade. It serves as the framework for managing financial assistance while also consolidating OMB requirements for federal awards. This guidance has historically supported the financial and physical security of federal grant operations, providing a durable oversight structure that safeguards federal dollars, preserves interagency integrity, and anchors the stability that the proposed rule now places at risk.

The proposed rule would fundamentally alter how federal grants are awarded by shifting decision-making away from an established, neutral criteria and toward processes that could allow for political influence over funding determinations. Instead of relying on statutory requirements, expert agency review, and merit-based evaluation, the rule would invite political actors to decide which communities, institutions, and programs receive federal support. It's a sharp break from long-standing Uniform Guidance.

The proposed rule would undermine the longevity of vital programs, including those that support care for mental health and substance use disorder in the United States. By destabilizing the very framework that enables sustained federal investment in these services, the rule threatens the backbone of our national response and the programs that rely on predictable, reliable grant administration to reach the communities most in need. Our concerns arise from recent instances that have demonstrated the importance of safeguarding the foundation, stability, and predictability of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants.

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>

In January 2026, SAMHSA announced the abrupt termination of over 2,000 grants, totaling more than \$2 billion. Upon notification, awardees received minimal justification regarding the cancellation.² Only twenty-four hours later, administration officials rescinded this decision confirming that all impacted grant funding would be restored.³ Despite this reinstatement, the unanticipated announcement sent awardees across the country into widespread alarm. The whiplash of termination, reinstatement, and subsequent recovery time demonstrated how fragile program stability becomes when foundational guardrails are weakened, underscoring the critical need to safeguard predictability for SAMHSA grantees and the communities they serve.

Funding for substance use disorder treatment and mental health services is not a partisan priority; it is a responsibility of the government and must not be left to the priorities of political actors. All fifty states and the District of Columbia offer programs and strategically invest in resources and services to support individuals with substance use disorder and those living with mental health conditions. Combatting this epidemic and reducing overdose deaths remains a collaborative effort. Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrates a 13% decline in U.S. overdose deaths this year.⁴ This decline is the result of long-term investment in substance use disorder funding and resources, and further progress must not be delayed or threatened. Individuals, communities, and families across the nation are depending on reliable resources that are anchored to dependable funding sources, including the federal investments that sustain critical mental health and substance use disorder programs.

Given the overwhelming support to preserve and protect grant funding that expands access to treatment and resources for mental health and substance use disorder, we request that OMB immediately repeal any proposed changes to Uniform Guidance. At a moment when progress against overdose deaths is finally emerging and demand for mental health services continues to rise, it is essential that we maintain, not weaken, the foundation that allows these lifesaving programs to operate. Fracturing that foundation would jeopardize the future of critical services that individuals, families, and communities depend on every day.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

²<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5677104/trump-administration-letter-terminating-addiction-mental-health-grants>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/14/health/samhsa-funding-cuts.html>

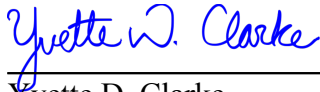
⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/index.html>



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Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



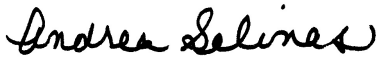
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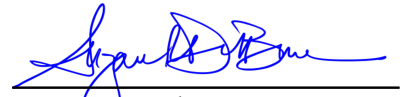
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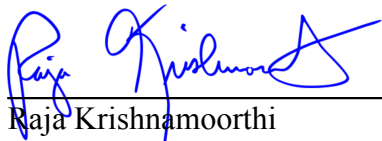
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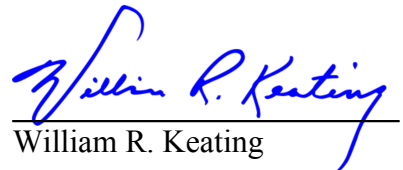
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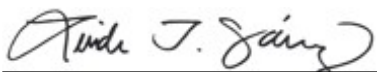
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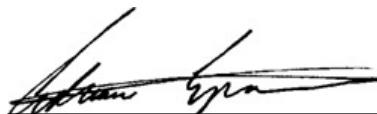
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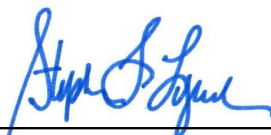
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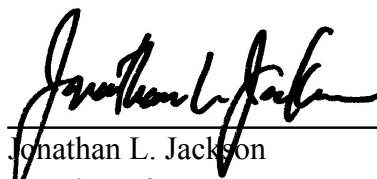
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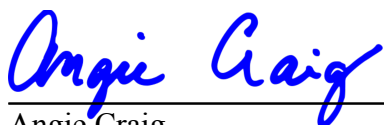
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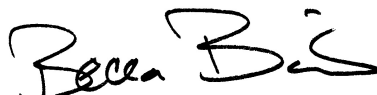
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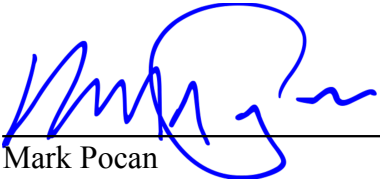
Becca Balint
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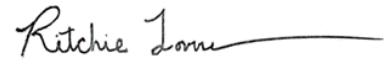
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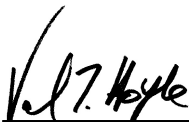
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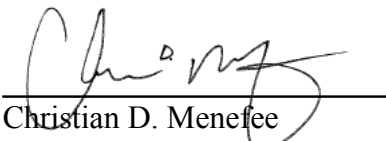
Adenita S. Grijalva
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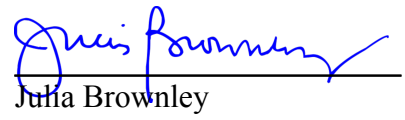
Val Hoyle
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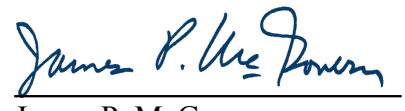
Christian D. Menefee
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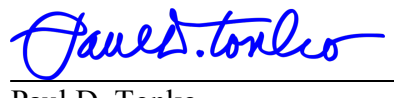
Julia Brownley
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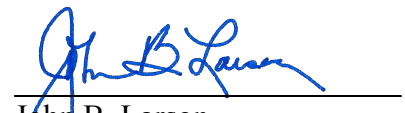
Mike Thompson
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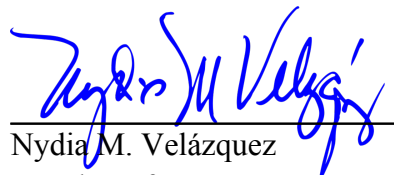
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Robert Kennedy, Jr.,
Secretary of Department of Health & Human Services