

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We have significant concerns about the reported closure of the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) Region One office in Boston. This unexpected closure has left families and childcare providers in Maine without the direct support, technical assistance, guidance, and oversight that regional offices provide.

As you know, the Region One office supported funding for Temporary Assistance to Need Families, as well as child welfare, child support enforcement, and childcare programs, to six states, including Maine. These programs support working families in our state and now have been left with no regional support or supervision. We are worried that this closure may lead to a disruption of programs for children and families and negatively impact thousands of hard-working Maine people.

We are especially concerned about the impact of this closure as it shuts the New England Office of Head Start (OHS). The OHS supervised the day-to-day management of Head Start and Early Head Start grantees across the New England region. Regional office employees guided grantees in navigating complex federal regulations and, most crucially, managed the grant funding and distribution of awards to Maine's Head Start programs. These programs support nearly 30,000 children and pregnant women across the region, with over 3,000 in Maine alone.

During this time of transition, we ask that you provide a detailed plan outlining how Head Start, Early Head Start, and other programs administered by ACF will continue to provide support to Maine families without lapse or reduction in services. Further, Head Start staff make up less than one percent of Head Start's annual budget. We request that you explain the purpose of a reduction in force of federal Head Start staff. Shuttering five regional offices across the country without a comprehensive plan to maintain their essential services will make Head Start a less effective and less efficient program, threatening its very mission and harming the children and families it serves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



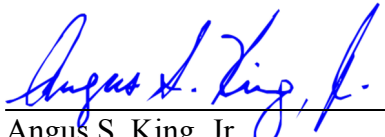
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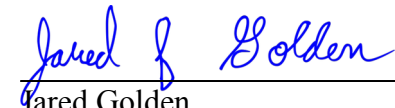
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

  
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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress