

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Nicholas LaLota
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nicole Malliotakis
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Lawler
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Claudia Tenney
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nicholas Langworthy
Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Republican Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

The president of the United States is actively targeting New York State for partisan purposes, placing our constituents at risk, and undermining critical aspects of our state's economy, safety, and public health. You have continued to stay silent and allowed the president to cause chaos. New York is neither a punching bag nor a political pawn for the president, and as members of Congress, you have a duty to stand up for your constituents. It is time to set aside partisan interests and work collaboratively to safeguard the well-being and prosperity of the people we represent.

Jobs

Hours before the Republican government shutdown, the Trump administration deliberately changed federal contracting requirements.¹ The following day, citing this change, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Vought announced that federal funding

¹ Department of Transportation Office of the Secretary, *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Airport Concessions Program Implementation Modifications*, Draft Interim Final Rule, Docket No. DOT-OST-2025-0897, published September 30, 2025, <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2025-09/DBE%20IFR.Signed.9-30-2025.pdf>.

would be withheld for both the Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 and the Hudson River Tunnel Gateway projects, directly contradicting the Secretary of Transportation's commitment in May to continue federal funding for these projects.² On October 15, President Trump announced the cancellation of the Gateway Program,³ again contradicting the statement made by Secretary Duffy in May, when he stated: "[if] you're asking me if I plan on canceling those grant agreements, I do not."⁴ In fact, Secretary Duffy has repeatedly stressed the importance of both of these critical infrastructure projects. A mere nine days before President Trump announced he was "terminating" Gateway, Secretary Duffy said: "The president in his budget fully funded these projects. We're not trying to shut down these projects... To the contrary, we're trying to make sure these projects move forward and move forward fast. They're important."⁵

The secretary is right. These projects are important: to New York, to the regional economy, and to the nation at large. The first phase of Gateway, which provides improvements to the aging Hudson Tunnel, "is expected to create 72,000 jobs."⁶ Put simply: President Trump is killing jobs in our state and leveraging billions of taxpayer dollars to play political games with New York.

The threatened termination of these projects is just one way the Trump administration is breaking promises and hurting New Yorkers. Additional actions have further compounded this harm:

- On October 1, OMB Director Vought announced the cancellation of nearly \$8 billion in funding for energy projects across the country, including 53 grants in New York, totaling nearly \$500 million.⁷ While this move was clearly partisan, and

² Russ Vought (@russvought), "Specifically, the Hudson Tunnel Project and the Second Ave Subway," quoting original post: "Roughly \$18 billion in New York City infrastructure projects have been put on hold to ensure funding is not flowing based on unconstitutional DEI principles. More info to come soon from @USDOT," Twitter (now X), October 1, 2025, <https://x.com/russvought/status/1973388530215735570>.

³ Matthew Haag, "Trump Says \$16 Billion Hudson River Tunnel Project Is 'Terminated,'" *New York Times*, October 15, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/15/nyregion/trump-gateway-cancellation.html>.

⁴ U.S. Congress, Senate, 2025, Hearing before the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, *A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Department of Transportation*, 119th Cong., 1st sess, May 15, 58:01-58:19, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-department-of-transportation>.

⁵ Chris Marquette, "'We're not trying to shut down these projects,' Duffy insists about NY tunnels," *E&E News By POLITICO*, October 7, 2025, <https://www.eenews.net/articles/were-not-trying-to-shut-down-these-projects-duffy-insists-about-ny-tunnels/>.

⁶ Marcia Kramer, "President Trump ending Gateway Project's funding has national, local political implications," *CBS News*, October 16, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/president-trump-gateway-project-funding-chuck-schumer-new-jersey/>.

⁷ "Republican Shutdown: Trump and Vought Raise Energy Prices," Appropriations Committee Democrats, data as of October 2025, <https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/doe-project-terminations-oct-2025.pdf>.

overwhelmingly impacted Democratic areas across the country, millions of dollars for Republican districts in New York were also terminated.⁸ Canceling these projects will cost thousands of jobs, increase energy prices for our constituents, and risk \$650 million in economic development.⁹

- On October 17, OMB Director Vought announced an additional pause and threatened the cancellation of \$11 billion in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects across 12 states. Reporting has stated that this pause includes \$7 billion for projects in New York, including wastewater treatment and water infrastructure improvements, directly affecting public health and economic development.¹⁰

President Trump's petty politics of retribution is having real consequences for New Yorkers in your districts, and your continued inaction in the face of these harms is unconscionable.

Safety

To make things worse, President Trump has made our communities less safe. In August, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) was advised that it would receive approximately \$33 million from FEMA's Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP). MTA uses this money for system security upgrades, including police presence by the New York Police Department, and according to the administration, MTA needs this money and more. Secretary Duffy, in a March letter to the MTA, stated,

*People traveling on the NYCT system to reach their jobs, education, health care, and other critical services need to feel secure and travel in a safe environment free of crime; as well, workers who operate the system need to be sure of a safe operating environment to provide transportation service. The transit riders and workers of New York City deserve nothing less.*¹¹

I agree that all transit riders should have a safe, accessible Subway system, and MTA has continued expanding its work decrease crime. Earlier this month, reports stated that FEMA failed to release these funds to MTA. This action – just one of many – directly undermines the

⁸ Catie Edmondson, "Trump Aimed Shutdown Cuts at Democrats, but G.O.P. Districts Are Hit, Too," *New York Times*, October 6, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/06/us/politics/republican-districts-political-pain-program-cancellations.html>.

⁹ New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, "Governor Hochul Slams Nearly Half a Billion Dollars in Federal Funding Cuts Targeting Dozens of New York Businesses and Clean Energy Programs," news release, October 8, 2025, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-slams-nearly-half-billion-dollars-federal-funding-cuts-targeting-dozens-new>.

¹⁰ Miranda Willson, "White House halts \$11B for water projects in blue states," *E&E News By POLITICO*, October 17, 2025, <https://www.eenews.net/articles/white-house-halts-11b-for-water-projects-in-blue-states/>.

¹¹ Sean P. Duffy to Janno Lieber, Washington, D.C., letter, March 18, 2025, <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2025-03/USDOT-letter-to-MTA-03-18-2025.pdf>.

administration's supposed commitment to public safety and "focus on safe travel in New York City."¹² A law enforcement official even stated that "[this] is 'Defund the Police,' MAGA-style."¹³ In order to regain access to this funding, the New York Attorney General needed to sue the administration, taking her office away from criminal justice matters.

I am urging you to stand up for New York, because when you do, the president listens. For example, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA aimed to cut \$87 million in Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding for New York in August and an additional \$102.7 million in September.¹⁴ HSGP funding is delivered to every county in the state to support our local law enforcement officers, prevent terrorism, and reduce crime. Through our delegation and Governor Hochul's advocacy, the Trump administration reversed its misguided and reckless plans. When congressional Republicans and Democrats from New York stand up to the administration's reckless cuts, our constituents are better served.

Health Care

As we did with HSGP funding, we must also work together to ensure that health care is protected for our constituents. During budget reconciliation negotiations, Republicans failed to include an extension of the enhanced premium tax credits (PTC) under the Affordable Care Act, which help working families afford their coverage. Without extension, these subsidies will expire at the end of 2025, resulting in:

- Substantial premium increases for more than 1.7 million New Yorkers; and
- The loss of coverage for an estimated 80,000 New Yorkers.¹⁵

Across your seven districts, roughly 43,600 New Yorkers rely on these enhanced tax credits, and an additional 383,200 New Yorkers in your districts receive coverage through the Essential Plan.¹⁶ The extension of these subsidies is particularly crucial for New York as the state confronts the devastating impacts of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, which is set to cut \$7.5

¹² Duffy to Lieber, letter, 2025.

¹³ Dave Colon and David Meyer, "BIG ZERO: Trump Stiffs MTA in 'Sanctuary City' Tantrum," *Streetsblog NYC*, September 30, 2025, <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2025/09/30/trump-admin-zeros-out-mta-security-grant-funding>.

¹⁴ New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, "Governor Hochul Stands Up for Public Safety as President Trump's Department of Homeland Security Defunds Police and Critical Counterterrorism Programs in New York," news release, September 30, 2025, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-stands-public-safety-president-trumps-department-homeland-security-defunds> and Grace Ashford and Tyler Pager, "Trump Administration Reverses \$187 Million in N.Y. Counterterrorism Cuts," *New York Times*, October 3, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/03/nyregion/trump-new-york-counterterrorism-funds.html>.

¹⁵ New York State of Health, "Press Release: Governor Hochul Urges Congress to Pass an Extension of Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Subsidies," news release, September 17, 2025, <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/news/press-release-governor-hochul-urges-congress-pass-extension-affordable-care-act-health>.

¹⁶"Congressional Fact Sheets," New York State of Health, data as of January 2025, <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025%20Congressional%20District%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>.

billion annually in federal funding for the Essential Plan starting on January 1, 2026, due to changes in PTC eligibility.¹⁷ As a result, the state has begun the process of reverting the Essential Plan back to a Basic Health Plan, scaling back eligibility for families who do not qualify for Medicaid but still struggle with rising health care costs. It would be reckless to allow our constituents, already struggling with rising prices, to see a dramatic increase in the cost of covering their care. I stand ready to work with you to extend these enhanced tax credits and protect health care for New Yorkers.

Everyone will lose from the reckless and dangerous actions taken by the Trump administration to target New York, and it is an abdication of your duty as representatives of our state to stay silent out of sheer blind loyalty to a vengeful president. I urge you to put your constituents first and not turn your backs on them by working with Democrats to find a bipartisan solution to protect health care coverage for all New Yorkers and advocate for our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

¹⁷ New York State Department of Health, "Following Devastating Federal Funding Cuts, New York State Takes New Action to Preserve Health Care for As Many New Yorkers As Possible," news release, September 10, 2025, https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2025/2025-09-10_federal_funding_cuts.htm.