

MALCOLM KENYATTA, MEMBER  
181ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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January 28, 2025

The Honorable Josh Shapiro  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Uri Monson  
Secretary of the Budget  
508 Finance Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro and Secretary Monson:

I am writing with urgent concerns about the impact of the President's federal grant and loan freeze on both my constituents and residents across the Commonwealth.

My district, which includes some of Philadelphia's most economically challenged neighborhoods, heavily relies on programs supported by federal grants. My neighbors depend on these services for everything from childcare assistance to workforce development programs. The uncertainty surrounding federal funding requires immediate clarity and action planning. Already, there are reports that Pennsylvania cannot access Medicaid payment portals due to the federal funding freeze, jeopardizing healthcare services for our most vulnerable residents.

I specifically request:

1. An assessment of which Pennsylvania programs and services currently funded through federal block grants would be affected by the freeze, with particular attention to impacts in urban areas like North Philadelphia;
2. The Commonwealth's contingency plans to maintain essential services, especially those serving low-income families, seniors, and children in my district and across Pennsylvania;
3. Pennsylvania's capacity to independently fund affected programs, including potential emergency funding mechanisms through the state budget;

4. Specific timelines for implementing any contingency measures to ensure no interruption of critical services to our most vulnerable residents.

As both a legislator and a representative of a district where many families live paycheck to paycheck, I need to provide my constituents with clear answers about the continuity of these essential services. Additionally, as we consider legislative priorities in the House, understanding the full scope of potential impacts will be crucial for upcoming policy and budget discussions.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to working together to protect Pennsylvania's vital social services infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Kenyatta", with a horizontal line underneath.

Malcolm Kenyatta

State Representative

181st District

CC:

Hon. Joanna McClinton

Hon. Kim Ward

Hon. Jordan Harris

Hon. Vincent Hughes

Hon. Jim Struzzi

Hon. Scott Martin

Dr. Val Arkoosh