



**TRANSMITTED BY EMAIL**

March 28, 2025

Honorable Steve Scalise  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Troy Carter  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Clay Higgins  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Mike Johnson  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Julia Letlow  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Cleo Fields  
U.S. Representative

Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD  
U.S. Senator

Honorable John Kennedy  
U.S. Senator

**RE: CATASTROPHIC IMPACT OF FEDERAL FUNDING REDUCTIONS ON ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Scalise, Representatives Carter, Higgins, Letlow, and Fields, Senators Cassidy and Kennedy,

On behalf of the Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Service & Prevention Providers (CLASPP) and communities across Louisiana served by addiction treatment programming, we write to express our deep concerns regarding recent immediate termination of federal grant funding and the potential catastrophic impact of these reductions for addiction treatment providers, services, and individuals served across the U.S. and particularly in Louisiana.

To be clear, these reductions in federal funding threaten to undermine vital addiction treatment programs in Louisiana and across the country, and the termination of billions in health care grant funding could devastate our national addiction treatment infrastructure. These cuts will place an immense burden on our state and local governments, as well as nonprofits who are already stretched thin, and will not make government more efficient nor improve service outcomes by cutting funding for direct care services which states are unable to replace.

Thus far, the reported fiscal impact of these reductions to the Louisiana Department of Health totals over \$55 million, and will in full effect devastate our state health services budget. **In short, these cuts will undoubtedly worsen the current opioid and synthetic drug crisis in Louisiana and across our nation and further strain our already overburdened healthcare system.**



The consequences of this funding shortfall for Louisiana and each locality across our state will include a rise in addiction-related deaths, and a strain on emergency services, the criminal justice system, and hospitals. For families, these cuts mean that loved ones will not receive the treatment they desperately need, leading to further cycles of suffering and instability. And for providers, **it is no overstatement that the loss of federal support will force difficult decisions for treatment centers including whether to close, reduce services, or limit their capacity.**

On the heels of Secretary Kennedy's renewal of a public health emergency to address the national opioid epidemic, we urge you to take immediate action to prevent these detrimental funding reductions from becoming a reality. Should these cuts remain, it is anticipated there will be immediate closure of addiction treatment programs across the state and country and long-lasting, irreparable harm to the mental and physical health of our communities.

As members of Congress with the power to advocate for the wellbeing of your constituents, **your intercession is crucial to ensuring that these services remain intact and accessible.** Without timely intervention, these cuts could have irreversible consequences, both in terms of the lives of individuals affected and the broader societal impact of reduced addiction treatment programming.

We urge you to consider the profound impact these cuts would have on providers and vulnerable populations and thank you for your awareness, support, and intercession around this critical issue.

Sincerely,

William M. Martyn, President – Executive Director, Responsibility House  
Dr. Emily G. Tilley, Vice President – Executive Director, O'Brien House  
Edward C. Carlson, Secretary/Treasurer – CEO, Odyssey House Louisiana  
Barry LaFleur, Member at Large – Clinical Director, Acadiana Cares

Cc: Karen Stubbs Church, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health  
Pat Clay, Executive Director, Treatment Communities of America