

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1078

Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the “Defend the Spend” freeze on child care payments to all States, Tribes, and Territories.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. SUOZZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## RESOLUTION

Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the “Defend the Spend” freeze on child care payments to all States, Tribes, and Territories.

1       *Resolved*, That the President of the United States is  
2 requested, and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
3 ices is directed, to transmit, to the extent that such docu-  
4 ments are in the possession of the President or the Sec-  
5 retary, to the House of Representatives, not later than 14

1 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, copies  
2 of any document, audit trail, record, audio recording,  
3 memorandum, call log, correspondence (electronic or oth-  
4 erwise), written agreements, report, study, contract, staff-  
5 ing assignment, legal analysis, or other communication in  
6 their possession, or any portion of any document, record,  
7 audit trail, audio recording, memorandum, call log, con-  
8 tract, staffing assignment, legal analysis, correspondence  
9 (electronic or otherwise), or other communication, that re-  
10 fers or relates to the following:

11           (1) The tweet by Health and Human Services  
12           (HHS) Deputy Secretary Jim O’Neill on December  
13           30, 2025, freezing all Administration for Children  
14           and Families (ACF) payments and reinstituting  
15           “Defend the Spend” procedures.

16           (2) Drawdown of Child Care Entitlement to  
17           States (CCES) allocations authorized under section  
18           418 of the Social Security Act via the Payment  
19           Management System (PMS) any time after Decem-  
20           ber 30, 2025, by any State, Territory, or Tribal  
21           CCES grantee.

22           (3) Payment management system delays and  
23           procedure for addressing funding delays and com-  
24           plaints after April 15, 2025, related to entitlement

1 funding authorized under title IV or subtitle A of  
2 title XX of the Social Security Act.

3 (4) HHS, ACF, and Executive Office of the  
4 President social media posts alleging child care  
5 fraud and resulting threats to, and harassment of,  
6 individual child care providers after December 30,  
7 2025.

8 (5) Warning letters, referrals to the Office of  
9 the Inspector General, or other disciplinary actions  
10 regarding alleged funding misuse by any grantee  
11 who has received a payment funded in whole or in  
12 part under title IV of the Social Security Act be-  
13 tween January 20, 2025, and December 1, 2025.

14 (6) Communication with grantees regarding the  
15 submission of additional data in order to draw down  
16 funds provided in whole or in part under title IV of  
17 the Social Security Act and the storage, use, and  
18 sharing of such data within and outside of HHS  
19 after April 15, 2025.

20 (7) Payments to contractors or consultants re-  
21 lated to “Defend the Spend” requirements, proce-  
22 dures, or implementation which affect funds pro-  
23 vided under title IV of the Social Security Act.

24 (8) Legal opinions regarding the designation as  
25 “proprietary”, nonpublic, or unavailable to congres-

1 sional requesters of such information related to con-  
2 tracting, spending of legally authorized funding, re-  
3 ferrals to the Office of the Inspector General, staff-  
4 ing assignments, or procedures related to funding  
5 authorized under title IV or subtitle A of title XX  
6 of the Social Security Act.

7 (9) Contracts, staffing assignments, and in-  
8 structions to contractors and any HHS staff (wheth-  
9 er based in the District of Columbia or regionally)  
10 regarding the “Defend the Spend” criteria and proc-  
11 ess for State, Tribal, or Territorial entitlements  
12 under subtitle A of title IV of the Social Security  
13 Act.

14 (10) Contracts with States, Tribes, and Terri-  
15 tories governing any payment management system  
16 operative in 2025 and 2026 and used to provide  
17 grantee access to entitlement funding provided  
18 under title IV of the Social Security Act.

19 (11) Meetings, discussions, or other actions in-  
20 volving the HHS Office of the General Counsel or  
21 outside legal advisors regarding the use of a pay-  
22 ment management system by grantees or efforts to  
23 provide, delay, or prevent access to entitlement fund-  
24 ing, including such funding authorized under title IV

1 or subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act,  
2 after January 20, 2025.

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