



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR ED GAINES

April 15, 2025

Senator John Fetterman
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fetterman,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trump Administration's efforts to cut federal funding to programs essential for a decent quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh, citizens that you and I represent.

It seems clear that proposals from the Trump Administration will wreak havoc on essential public services, leaving people worse off through lost health coverage, less money for groceries, weakened access to a quality public education, and other basic services. Due to the work of the Administration and DOGE, organizations within the City of Pittsburgh have already experienced \$210 million in cuts to programs that serve residents. These current cuts to funding will have a long-term negative economic impact on our City's economy due to a loss of jobs, leading to a declining tax base. Since ending the COVID-19 pandemic, Pittsburgh has experienced record job creation and wage growth. Much of this growth has occurred in our leading employment sectors of higher education, medicine, technology, and life sciences, all industries that are heavily dependent on federally sponsored research at our premier research universities. Making the funding reductions for the NIH permanent jeopardizes Pittsburgh's economic dynamism and risks the loss of our most significant competitive advantage in job creation and business attraction, which in turn would destabilize our earned-income tax base, presently the City's leading source of revenue.

Furthermore, some proposals under serious consideration would further reduce federal funding by seeking to shift more significant costs onto states and local municipalities, such as by requiring them to pay for a larger share of the cost of Medicaid. In other cases, proposals would cut funding for a program without an explicit cost-shift, leaving it to state and local governments to "figure it out!" For example, if the federal government cuts support for public education, states and localities must use already thinly-stretched resources to fund the entire system or risk significant degradation of our school system.

To say that I have serious concerns over the proposed federal budget cuts would be a colossal understatement. These reductions risk weakening the city's infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social safety nets, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities. In Pittsburgh, we have heard from our local partners who expressed concern over funds being canceled, reduced, or pulled as a result of grant program elimination and funding disruptions following the issuance of certain Executive Orders and agency implementation, including in the following areas:

- Community development and housing support, including Section 8, project-based vouchers, affordable housing, and emergency housing
- HIV, senior, sexual assault, veteran, homeless, and reentry supportive services
- Workforce development
- Refugee resettlement
- Food access and assistance

In addition, recently established tariff changes will negatively impact our capital projects and infrastructure maintenance efforts overall in the following ways:

- Construction materials utilized in the United States are primarily sourced from Canada. Recently established tariffs on Canadian imports will dramatically increase the cost of capital investment projects, such as public safety and recreation facilities, roadway improvements, and bridge rehabilitation projects. These cost increases will jeopardize our ability to complete these essential projects.
- While the City of Pittsburgh exclusively purchases vehicles produced by American automakers, the supply chain for these vehicles is currently spread across the US, Canada, and Mexico. Recently established tariffs on those countries will increase the cost of vehicle purchases by an unknown yet significant amount as vehicle components and manufacturing activities crisscross these borders multiple times, as already being seen in the vehicle market
- Components for magnesium chloride, an essential commodity used to salt our roads in the winter, are sourced from Canada. Tariffs on Canadian imports risk disrupting the supply of magnesium chloride in a fashion that could prevent us from securing adequate stockpiles of this material for next winter, placing the safety of our City's roads in serious risk next winter.

In advance of the President submitting his Fiscal Year 2026 budget, I would further caution you and your colleagues in Congress not to memorialize these dramatic cuts to domestic programs by supporting efforts to make these cuts permanent. I urge you to advocate for a budget that fosters stability, opportunity, and prosperity for all.

I stand ready to work with leaders from both sides of the aisle to find sustainable solutions that protect essential programs while ensuring fiscal responsibility. I ask that you join me in voicing opposition to these funding cuts and think strategically about the impact these proposed cuts would have on the people you and I represent. It is essential to sustain these programs without placing the entire funding burden on local governments.

If you have any questions, please email Felicity Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, at felicity.williams@pittsburghpa.gov.

Yours in service,



Ed Gainey, Mayor
City of Pittsburgh
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Cc: Felicity Williams
Darius Wallace
Krysta Juris
Scott Rykala
Elizabeth Cassertano



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR ED GAINES

April 15, 2025

Senator Dave McCormick
SH-702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCormick,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trump Administration's efforts to cut federal funding to programs essential for a decent quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh, citizens that you and I represent.

It seems clear that proposals from the Trump Administration will wreak havoc on essential public services, leaving people worse off through lost health coverage, less money for groceries, weakened access to a quality public education, and other essential services. Due to the work of the Administration and DOGE, organizations within the City of Pittsburgh have already experienced \$210 million in cuts to programs that serve residents. These current cuts to funding will have a long-term negative economic impact on our City's economy due to a loss of jobs, leading to a declining tax base. Since ending the COVID-19 pandemic, Pittsburgh has experienced record job creation and wage growth. Much of this growth has occurred in our leading employment sectors of higher education, medicine, technology, and life sciences, all industries that are heavily dependent on federally sponsored research at our premier research universities. Making the funding reductions for the NIH permanent jeopardizes Pittsburgh's economic dynamism and risks the loss of our most significant competitive advantage in job creation and business attraction, which in turn would destabilize our earned-income tax base, presently the City's leading source of revenue.

Furthermore, some proposals under serious consideration would further reduce federal funding by seeking to shift more significant costs onto states and local municipalities, such as by requiring them to pay for a larger share of the cost of Medicaid. In other cases, proposals would cut funding for a program without an explicit cost-shift, leaving it to state and local governments to "figure it out!" For example, if the federal government cuts support for public education, states and localities must use already thinly-stretched resources to fund the entire system or risk significant degradation of our school system.

To say that I have serious concerns over the proposed federal budget cuts would be a colossal understatement. These reductions risk weakening the city's infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social safety nets, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities. In Pittsburgh, we have heard from our local partners who expressed concern over funds being canceled, reduced, or pulled as a result of grant program elimination and funding disruptions following the issuance of certain Executive Orders and agency implementation, including in the following areas:

- Community development and housing support, including Section 8, project-based vouchers, affordable housing, and emergency housing
- HIV, senior, sexual assault, veteran, homeless, and reentry supportive services
- Workforce development
- Refugee resettlement
- Food access and assistance

In addition, recently established tariff changes will negatively impact our capital projects and infrastructure maintenance efforts overall in the following ways:

- Construction materials utilized in the United States are primarily sourced from Canada. Recently established tariffs on Canadian imports will dramatically increase the cost of capital investment projects, including public safety and recreation facilities, roadway improvements, and bridge rehabilitation projects. These cost increases will jeopardize our ability to complete these essential projects.
- While the City of Pittsburgh exclusively purchases vehicles produced by American automakers, the supply chain for these vehicles is currently spread across the US, Canada, and Mexico. Recently established tariffs on those countries will increase the cost of vehicle purchases by an unknown yet significant amount as vehicle components and manufacturing activities crisscross these borders multiple times, as already being seen in the vehicle market
- Components for magnesium chloride, an essential commodity used to salt our roads in the winter, are sourced from Canada. Tariffs on Canadian imports risk disrupting the supply of magnesium chloride in a fashion that could prevent us from securing adequate stockpiles of this material for next winter, placing the safety of our City's roads in serious risk next winter.

In advance of the President submitting his Fiscal Year 2026 budget, I would further caution you and your colleagues in Congress not to memorialize these dramatic cuts to domestic programs by supporting efforts to make these cuts permanent. I urge you to advocate for a budget that fosters stability, opportunity, and prosperity for all.

I stand ready to work with leaders from both sides of the aisle to find sustainable solutions that protect essential programs while ensuring fiscal responsibility. I ask that you join me in voicing opposition to these funding cuts and think strategically about the impact these proposed cuts would have on the people you and I represent. It is essential to sustain these programs without placing the entire funding burden on local governments.

If you have any questions, please email Felicity Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, at felicity.williams@pittsburghpa.gov.

Yours in service,



Ed Gainey, Mayor
City of Pittsburgh
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Cc: Felicity Williams
Darius Wallace
Mark Isakowitz
Kristin Sapperstein
Sam Demarco