

March 28, 2025

Earlier this week, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would cut 80 jobs due to losing over \$100 million in federal grants. This loss is largely attributed to the current administration of President Trump and the abrupt termination of several federal grants by his head of the Department of Health and Human Services. We have previously discussed how these cuts would begin to affect us, and this is a prime example.

According to a spokesperson from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, this lack of funding will directly impact North Carolinians' health, safety, and well-being across all areas of the state. The affected services include behavioral health, substance use disorder services, the NC Immunization Registry, infectious disease monitoring and response, and more. Local health departments, universities, hospitals, and departments of social services will all feel the effects of this funding cut.

We urge you to contact your congressional representative and senators to express your concerns about the significant damage these cuts will cause. With potential threats to Medicaid and Medicare, the situation may worsen.

How many times have we heard politicians claim that a lack of mental health resources contributes to incidents of violence, such as mass shootings, and then use this as a reason to resist enacting new firearm restrictions? Additionally, drug addiction is often cited as a factor in many crimes. However, when it comes time to address these issues, we see funding cuts prioritized to provide tax breaks for a few wealthy individuals.

As taxpaying citizens of North Carolina, we deserve better. These cuts could signal the beginning of a massive collapse of the healthcare system, which will ultimately cost us more money and time, and, more importantly, jeopardize our health. The primary responsibility of any elected official is the well-being of their constituents.

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