

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

I write to express my deep concern regarding the recent misguided and potentially unlawful decision to terminate funding for the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant (MHSP) and the School-Based Mental Health Services program (SBMH), which were already awarded to New York school districts and educational entities. These grants have been vital in addressing the growing youth mental health crisis, providing essential resources that schools depend on to support students' emotional and mental well-being.

Across New York State, programs funded by MHSP and SBMH have created a workforce development pipeline for school counselors, psychologists and social workers – professionals crucial to meeting the increasing demand for mental health services. This need is urgent: national projections estimate a shortage of over 200,000 mental health professionals, including psychologists, psychiatrists, and school counselors, by 2037. Without sustained funding, this shortage will worsen, severely limiting access to care for vulnerable students.

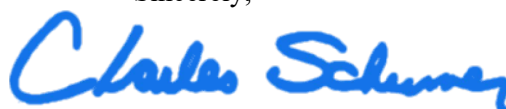
In New York's Rochester Finger Lakes region, schools, mental health professionals, and students were relying on this awarded grant funding to provide in-person counseling and critical support services to thousands of local students. Many of these students face significant barriers, making school-based mental health programs their primary access point for care. The proposed elimination of over \$19 million statewide, including over \$8 million in funding in just the Rochester Finger Lakes region, threatens to dismantle these vital programs, increasing security risks for schools and leaving countless students without the support they need to succeed both academically and personally.

Cutting these services will not only harm students but also disrupt the development of future mental health professionals, further widening gaps in care across the state. Demand for qualified mental health professionals is at an all-time high, and these programs are a critical investment in building and sustaining that workforce.

I urge the Department of Education to immediately reverse this decision. Eliminating funding for MHSP and SBMH grants undermines the mental health and future success of New York's youth and fails to meet the responsibilities we have to our communities and taxpayers. These programs work, and our students deserve their continued support.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt action to protect and strengthen mental health services in our schools.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator