

July 4th, 2025

To the People of Washington state, King County, City of Seattle,

As we celebrate Independence Day 2025, we write to you not in celebration, but with heavy hearts and urgent concern. Yesterday, the United States Congress officially approved a national budget that not only betrays the American people, but also represents a devastating departure from our values of equality, justice, and a government by and for all.

On this Fourth of July, elected leaders are grieving the passage of the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans' "One Big Beautiful Bill." It is a national disaster and no call for celebration.

This bill tragically slashed funding to vital public services for everyday Americans to give a massive tax break to the billionaire class. It will force hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians on Medicaid from their coverage and will gouge investments to much-needed environmental sustainability projects across the Puget Sound needed to fight climate change. Coupled with brutal raids led by the U.S. Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which gleefully disappear our immigrant and refugee neighbors, this shameful national budget demands the need for bold, decisive leadership from all levels of government in Washington state.

Even before Congressional Republicans voted to take away health care from 17 million Americans, Washingtonians were already reeling from the impact of austerity in our communities. The most recent budget signed into law by Washington state Governor Bob Ferguson reduced [childcare access](#) for working families, made college [less affordable](#) for thousands of students, defunded public employee [pensions](#), and closed a [reproductive healthcare clinic](#) on Capitol Hill - the state's most densely populated neighborhood.

Austerity measures enacted in Washington state this year will now be intensified by this national budget as Congressional Republicans voted to rip away cash assistance, food, and health care away from poor and working class Americans. Washingtonians stand to lose the largest share of their federal Medicaid dollars of any state in the union - to the tune of over \$35 billion over the course of the next decade. This is unconscionable.

We believe in an America where healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Where working families can afford to see a doctor when they're sick. Where seniors can count on Medicare and Meals on Wheels. We believe in an America that welcomes immigrants of all backgrounds and treats everyone with dignity and respect. We believe in fiscal responsibility that doesn't balance budgets on the backs of the most vulnerable and middle class while giving massive tax breaks to billionaires.

These should not be partisan values. These values represent the promise of a government that serves the people, not kings.

Washington leaders are now calling for measures to meet this moment. State lawmakers must urgently act to prepare for the harm done by the authoritarianism of the federal government. Local government leaders must enact progressive revenue, like the Seattle Shield Initiative, which can reduce harm to essential programs in major metropolitan areas from budget cuts.

The undersigned elected officials represent all levels of government including state, local, and special district governments. We commit to working together in the immediate term to develop meaningful solutions to protect residents.

The time is urgently prudent for local leaders across Washington state to live up to the progressive values which have long made us a target of the Trump regime and their corporate cronies.

On this Independence Day, we make a solemn promise to the people of Washington state: we will not let this betrayal of American values and principles stand unchallenged. We call upon you the People to demand every elected official in Washington state remember what this nation is truly about - fighting for the tired, poor huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Signed,

City Signatories

Mayor Mason Thompson, City of Bothell
Deputy Mayor Rami Al-Kabra, City of Bothell
Councilmember Carston Curd, City of Bothell
Councilmember Amanda Dodd, City of Bothell
Councilmember Jenne Alderks, City of Bothell
Deputy Mayor Sarah Moore, City of Burien
Councilmember Lydia Assfea-Dawson, City of Federal Way
Mayor Nigel Herbig, City of Kenmore
Deputy Mayor Melanie O'Cain, City of Kenmore
Councilmember Valerie Sasson, City of Kenmore
Mayor Kelli Curtis, City of Kirkland
Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, City of Kirkland
Councilmember Carolyn Cox, City of Lacey
Councilmember Robin C. Vazquez, City of Lacey
Councilmember Semra Riddle, City of Lake Forest Park
Mayor Dontae Payne, City of Olympia
Councilmember Robert Vanderpool, City of Olympia
Councilmember Kelly Green, City of Olympia
Councilmember Jim Cooper, City of Olympia
Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe, City of Redmond
Councilmember Angie Nuevacamina, City of Redmond
Councilmember Carmen Rivera, City of Renton
Councilmember Ariana Sherlock, City of Newcastle
Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, City of Newcastle
Councilmember Rob Saka, City of Seattle District 1
Councilmember Mark Solomon, City of Seattle District 2
Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth, City of Seattle District 3
Councilmember Dan Strauss, City of Seattle District 6
Councilmember Alexis Mercedes Rinck, City of Seattle Position 8
Mayor Mohamed Egal, City of SeaTac
Councilmember James Lovell, City of SeaTac
Councilmember Senayet Negusse, City of SeaTac
Deputy Mayor Iris Guzmán, City of Seatac

Mayor Chris Robers, City of Shoreline
Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, City of Shoreline
Councilmember Keith Scully, City of Shoreline
Councilmember John Ramsdell, City of Shoreline
Councilmember Annette Ademasu, City of Shoreline
Councilmember Olgy Diaz, City of Tacoma
Councilmember Sandesh Sadalge, City of Tacoma
Councilmember Eileen Swarthout, Tumwater City Council
Councilmember Leatta Dahlhoff, Tumwater City Council

County Signatories

Councilmember Rod Dembowski, King County Council District 1
Councilmember Jorge L. Barón, King County Council District 4
Councilmember De'Sean Quinn, King County Council District 5
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, King County Council District 8
Chair of the Board of Commissioners Tye Menser, Thurston County
Commissioner Rachel Grant, Thurston County
Commissioner Carolina Mejia, Thurston County
Commissioner Emily Clouse, Thurston County

Port Signatories

Commission President Toshiko Hasegawa, Port of Seattle
Commissioner Hamdi Mohamed, Port of Seattle
Commissioner Ryan Calkins, Port of Seattle
Commission President Jasmine Vasavada, Port of Olympia

School Board Signatories

Board Director Joe Mizrahi, Seattle School Board
Board Director Liza Rankin, Seattle School Board

State Legislature Signatories

Rep. Davina Duerr, 1st Legislative District
Rep. Natasha Hill, 3rd Legislative District
Rep. Timm Ormsby, 3rd Legislative District
Rep. Strom Peterson, 21st Legislative District
Senator Jessica Bateman, 22nd Legislative District
Rep. Lisa Parshley, 22nd Legislative District
Rep. Tara Simmons, 23rd Legislative District
Rep. Greg Nance, 23rd Legislative District
Rep. Sharlett Mena, 29th Legislative District
Senator Claire Wilson, 30th Legislative District
Rep. Kristine Reeves, 30th Legislative District
Rep. Jamila Taylor, 30th Legislative District
Rep. Edwin Obras, 33rd Legislative District

Rep. Mia Su-Ling Gregerson, 33rd Legislative District
Rep. Brianna Thomas, 34th Legislative District
Rep. Julia Reed, 36th Legislative District
Senator Rebecca Saldaña, 37th Legislative District
Rep. Chipalo Street, 37th Legislative District
Rep. Julio Cortes, 33rd Legislative District
Rep. My-Linh Thai, 41st Legislative District
Rep. Shaun Scott, 43rd Legislative District
Rep. Darya Farivar, 46th Legislative District
Senator Vandana Slatter, 48th Legislative District
Rep. Osman Salahuddin, 48th Legislative District

Statewide Signatories

Insurance Commissioner Patty Kuderer, Washington State