



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Federal Tax Dollars Ripped Away from Programs in Oregon Community Clinics, Local Nonprofits, Medical Labs**

*Cuts will damage programs around substance use treatment, immunization, virus testing*

**SALEM, OR** – Oregon Senate Democrats warn that the federal administration’s slashing of public health funding will mean fewer vital services in communities across the state. The Oregon Health Authority announced yesterday that \$117 million in already allocated, budgeted federal spending has been canceled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“When Oregonians send their federal tax dollars to the IRS every spring, they expect to see that investment coming back to the state to advance our health, safety, and wellbeing,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – NE Portland, Boring, and Damascus)**. “Sudden and severe cuts put our progress in jeopardy.”

Oregonians paid the federal government nearly \$41 billion in income taxes in 2023.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services now is refusing to follow through on funding for health programs that operate largely on the community level: in county clinics, through contracts with community organizations, at Tribal health centers, and for rural health care providers. Services hit by this decision include substance use prevention and treatment, the 988 mental health crisis line, training in vaccine-preventable diseases, and lab testing of viruses.

“Grants like the ones halted this week allow states to build services around local needs,” **Senator Jama** said. “In Oregon, they were filling critical gaps in support for veterans, young adults, people of color, rural health care providers, laboratory technicians and more. We all deserve to see that funding restored.”

The terminated funding had been granted by HHS’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Oregon Health Authority is evaluating the full effect of the cuts and whether they are legal.

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