

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable James Uthmeier
Attorney General of Florida
The Capitol
400 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Uthmeier,

As members of Florida's Congressional delegation, we urge you to immediately join the lawsuit filed by 25 states in the case of *State of California v. McMahon*, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

We have deep concerns over the Trump Administration's ongoing refusal to release more than \$5.5 billion in federal education funding, including over \$325 million owed to Florida's schools, educators, and community programs. This is funding that Congress lawfully appropriated and that Florida students urgently need.

The Trump Administration's action is a clear violation of the *Impoundment Control Act*, which prohibits the executive branch from withholding Congressionally-appropriated funds. It also threatens the Constitutional balance of powers and undermines public trust.

In response to the unconstitutional withholding of funds, 25 states filed a lawsuit on July 14, 2025 against the U.S. Department of Education, asking a federal court to require the Trump Administration to lift the funding freeze. *Although Florida has hundreds of millions of dollars riding on this freeze, the State has not yet joined the lawsuit.*

This is not a partisan issue. It is about standing up for Florida's students, our educators, and the rule of law. The withheld funds support critical programs such as:

- Teacher Training and Professional Development;
- Academic Enrichment, Student Support Services, and Digital Literacy for Students;
- Adult Education and Integrated English Literacy;
- English-Learner Services; and
- Educational services for seasonal or migratory agricultural workers and their children.

For Florida, this freeze is not theoretical—it's real money being held hostage, with tangible harm to our school districts, working families, and children. Programs are being delayed or dismantled. School districts have had to freeze hiring and may soon have to start laying off staff. Local leaders are left in limbo. While other states are taking action, Florida is conspicuously absent.

Florida's children should not pay the price for adult politics. We implore you to put Florida's interests first by joining *State of California v. McMahon* and demanding the release of the federal education dollars our communities were promised.

Sincerely,



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



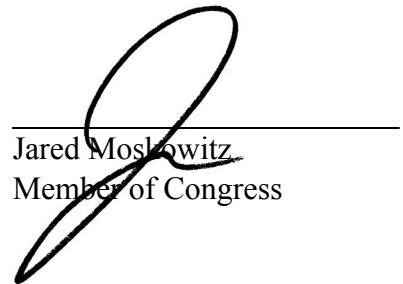
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
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Kathy Castor
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