

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

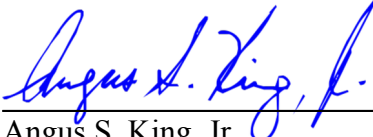
We write to request that, should Congress provide additional funding for the Shelter and Services Program (SSP), you remove the 45-day limitation on aid from future SSP Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and increase the limitation to 180 days. Restricting services to those who have been released by DHS in the past 45 days will limit the eligibility of municipalities and groups in Maine and other states located further from the southern border to apply for SSP funding, and end the critical support from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program Humanitarian (EFSP-H) they have counted on for years.

The SSP NOFOs' 45-day limitation is inappropriate for migrant destination locations like Maine. Maine immigrant services groups struggle with the 45-day limitation because migrants arriving in the state have typically been released from DHS custody many days prior, reducing the period in which these individuals and families may receive support. This reality makes it impossible for many Maine programs to access SSP funding that they have depended on under the EFSP-H program to support and assist migrants.

We understand that DHS can revise NOFOs through administrative action that does not require further legislation. The 45-day requirement does not appear in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2023 (Div. F, Title II of P.L. 117-328) that created the SSP. DHS created the requirement of its own volition, and DHS has the ability to amend or remove the requirement going forward.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the action that you plan to take on removing or extending the 45-day limitation on future Notices of Funding Opportunity for the Shelter and Services Program.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Deanna Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Troy Miller, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Commissioner, U.S. Customs and
Border Protection