



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

April 22, 2025

Hon. Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of State and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue
S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear President Trump and Secretary Kennedy Jr.,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Resolution re: **The Immediate Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS)** by 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention with 29 members present:

WHEREAS, the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS) is a landmark, federally funded research initiative that has followed over 1,700 participants for nearly three decades to study the long-term effects of lifestyle interventions in preventing type 2 diabetes and its complications, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and

WHEREAS, DPPOS builds upon the original Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a clinical trial announced in 2001 by then-HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson that first proved type 2 diabetes could be prevented through modest lifestyle changes—a breakthrough that led to the creation of the CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program and the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP); and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2025, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) abruptly terminated funding for DPPOS (NIH Grant U19AG078558) without prior notice, due to a broader freeze in

federal funding at Columbia University, despite over 90% of DPPOS funds supporting research at 30 institutions across 21 states; and

WHEREAS, DPPOS addresses critical national health priorities identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Alzheimer’s Project Act, focusing on prevention and early intervention in populations at heightened risk for dementia—including individuals with prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, who represent over half of U.S. adults aged 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, the DPPOS research infrastructure, amassed biological specimens, and longitudinal data collected over nearly 30 years are irreplaceable and continue to produce impactful scientific findings across a range of public health areas, including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, cancer, and neurological conditions, with over 200 peer-reviewed publications to date; and

WHEREAS, the DPPOS funding termination has been condemned by national medical organizations, including the American Diabetes Association and the Endocrine Society, and covered extensively in major media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Axios*, *STAT News*, *Science*, *MedPage Today*, and *Inside Health Policy*, all of which emphasize the risk to national scientific progress and to vulnerable patient populations; and

WHEREAS, DPPOS Study Chair Dr. David Nathan has publicly stated that “continued interruption threatens the stability of the staff, the connection to participants, and the potential to salvage the scientific integrity of the study,” and that the funding decision was unrelated to the study’s scientific merit or safety; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Congressional Diabetes Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Diana DeGette and Gus Bilirakis, has formally written to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Acting NIH Director Dr. Matthew Memoli, urging the continuation of DPPOS funding and asking NIH to consider alternative funding structures to avoid penalizing patients and institutions not involved in the Columbia administrative issue; and

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community District 9—which includes the neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights—suffers from some of the highest rates of chronic diseases in New York City, with diabetes and cardiovascular disease consistently ranking among the leading causes of death in the district, according to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 9 serves a predominantly Black and Latino population, who face significantly higher burdens of diabetes, obesity, and hypertension than white New Yorkers, and who remain underrepresented in clinical research—making the preservation of inclusive, community-engaged studies like DPPOS especially vital to health equity; and

WHEREAS, the potential loss of DPPOS threatens the long-term sustainability of research that informs the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic illnesses directly impacting CB9 residents and other underserved communities across the country;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 strongly condemns the NIH's termination of DPPOS funding and urges the immediate and full restoration of funding to ensure uninterrupted continuation of this essential public health research initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 calls on the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to urgently explore administrative or legislative remedies to reinstate funding through alternative institutional mechanisms if needed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 9 calls upon all of its elected officials—including:

- Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
- New York State Senator Cordell Cleare
- New York State Assembly Members Al Taylor and Danny O'Donnell
- New York City Council Members Shaun Abreu and Kristin Richardson Jordan
- Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
- Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
- New York Governor Kathy Hochul
- U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand

to take the following actions in support of DPPOS:

- Issue formal letters and public statements urging HHS and NIH to restore funding to DPPOS;
- Work with Congressional colleagues and appropriations committees to ensure funding protections for distributed national studies like DPPOS;
- Advocate for federal research funding structures that protect community-centered science from administrative disruptions; and
- Promote the participation of Black, Latino, and other underrepresented communities in federally funded chronic disease research initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to all listed officials, relevant media outlets, community stakeholders, and scientific organizations engaged in public health research and advocacy.

Sources:

- DiabetesPro SmartBrief, March 27: [Cancellation of diabetes studies raises concerns](#)
- Axios, March 26: [First look: Diabetes Caucus slams NIH grant cut](#)
- Healio, March 26: [Investigators advocate to reinstate Diabetes Prevention Program Outcome Study funding](#)
- Medscape, March 26: [Diabetes Prevention Program Cancellation a 'Colossal Waste'](#)
- Inside Health Policy, March 24: [30-Year Diabetes Study Not Yet Restored Despite Columbia Univ.'s Reported Deal With Trump](#)
- MedPage Today, March 20: [Top Societies Decry Trump's Funding Cuts to Landmark Diabetes Study](#)
- Endocrine Society, March 19: [Endocrine Society calls for restoration of Diabetes Prevention Program](#)
- ADA, March 18: [The American Diabetes Association's Statement on Canceled Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study Funding](#)
- Science, March 18: [After Columbia's 'nightmare,' dozens more universities brace for Trump NIH cuts](#)
- Econostrum, March 18: [Funding Cut to Long-Term Diabetes Study by Trump Administration Raises Concerns](#)
- AJMC, March 18: [Trump Administration Cancels Crucial Funding for Diabetes Prevention Program](#)
- Independent, March 18: [Trump administration cuts funding to long-term diabetes study: Report](#)
- NYT, March 18: ['Colossally Wasteful': Trump's Cuts Imperil Medical Research at Columbia](#)
- STAT News, March 17: [NIH cancels funding for landmark diabetes study at a time of focus on chronic disease](#)

Key facts about DPPOS:

- [The Diabetes Prevention Program](#) (DPP) established that type 2 diabetes can be prevented. The results were announced in 2002 at a [press conference by Tommy Thompson](#), the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services at the time. The [DPP lifestyle program](#) has been [endorsed by CDC](#) and is [now supported by Medicare](#).
- [DPPOS is the long-term follow up of the DPP cohort](#), and is currently studying Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, in addition to continuing to study the long-term effects of diabetes prevention on other health conditions such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, nerve damage, kidney disease, eye disease, and cancer.
- DPPOS addresses the National Alzheimer's Project Act goal to "prevent, halt, or reverse Alzheimer's disease" in the high-risk group of persons with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes.
- In 2022, a single award for DPPOS activities was given to Columbia University, from which. However, over 90% of funds are spent outside of Columbia at 30 institutions distributed across the United States.
- [DPP Research Group has published over 200 scientific articles.](#)

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc:

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Antonio Delgado, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Chuck Schumer, New York State Senate
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, New York State Senate
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Robert Jackson, New York State Senate
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Representative
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member
Hon. Dr. James V. McDonald, NYS Health Commissioner
Hon. Dr. Michelle E. Morse, NYC Health Commissioner
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

April 22, 2025

Hon. Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of State and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue
S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear President Trump and Secretary Kennedy Jr.,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Resolution re: **Unauthorized Work - Opposing Federal Health Workforce Layoffs and Funding Cuts** by 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, with 29 members present:

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2025, the Trump Administration began laying off approximately 10,000 federal health workers, including senior leaders and top scientists, from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as part of a broader budget reduction effort spearheaded by Secretary for Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.;

WHEREAS, the layoffs represent less than 1% of HHS's \$1.8 trillion budget, yet the impact of these cuts has been described by experts as an "immeasurable loss of expertise" at a time when the nation is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and facing emerging public health threats (The New York Times, 2025); and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, underfunded public health infrastructure contributed to massive loss of life and economic disruption, with the total economic cost of the pandemic in the U.S. estimated at over \$16 trillion (Cutler & Summers, 2020); and

Hon. Donald J. Trump
Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Page 1 of 3

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that proactive investment in public health preparedness is exponentially more cost-effective than reactive crisis management, with some estimates suggesting prevention is 500 times less costly than response (World Health Organization, 2022); and

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 9 (CB9), representing a diverse and historically underserved population in Upper Manhattan, depends on a functioning and well-resourced federal public health system to partner with local clinics, address chronic disease disparities, and protect against environmental and infectious threats; and

WHEREAS, CB9 recognizes that layoffs of federally employed scientists, physicians, and emergency planners endanger the national capacity to respond to health emergencies and disproportionately harm vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, if there is one lesson to be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that being frugal with public health costs more in the long run — in dollars and lives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 strongly opposes the mass layoffs of federal health workers, as such actions undermine the national public health infrastructure and compromise the safety of all Americans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 urges the United States Congress to immediately halt the layoffs, restore funding for the HHS workforce, and hold oversight hearings to assess the long-term implications of such cuts on national health security;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 calls on our local, state, and national leaders to support sustained, strategic investment in public health preparedness and equity, in order to protect communities, strengthen resilience, and avoid repeating the failures of past crises.

References:

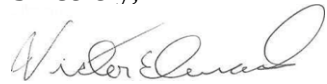
Cutler DM, Summers LH. *The COVID-19 Pandemic and the \$16 Trillion Virus*. *JAMA*. 2020;324(15):1495–1496. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.19759

Jewett, C., & Nicas, J. (2025, April 1). *Trump administration lays off 10,000 federal health workers, sparking backlash*. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/04/01/us/trump-news-updates>

World Health Organization. (2022). *Fighting COVID-19 could cost 500 times more than pandemic prevention*. <https://extranet.who.int/sph/fighting-covid-19-could-cost-500-times-much-pandemic-prevention-measures>

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc:

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Antonio Delgado, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Chuck Schumer, New York State Senate
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, New York State Senate
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Robert Jackson, New York State Senate
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Representative
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member
Hon. Dr. James V. McDonald, NYS Health Commissioner
Hon. Dr. Michelle E. Morse, NYC Health Commissioner
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

April 23, 2025

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Resolution re: **Opposition of the Removal of Benches in MTA Subway Stations and Demanding Their Immediate Restoration** by a unanimous vote with 30 members present:

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has begun removing benches from subway platforms and replacing them with inadequate “leaning bars” under the justification of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, the MTA reported in March 19th that the Congestion Relief Zone toll revenue will fund “\$15 billion in capital improvements to the MTA network” (MTA.info, 2025), calling into question the need for such cost saving measures; and

WHEREAS, the removal of benches disproportionately harms vulnerable populations, including but not limited to:

- Seniors who require seating while waiting for trains;
- Individuals with disabilities who rely on benches for mobility and stability;
- People with chronic illnesses, such as arthritis, heart conditions, severe fatigue, and other health issues that limit their ability to stand for long periods;
- Pregnant individuals who need safe and accessible seating while traveling;
- Riders recovering from surgery or injuries who depend on seating for safe and comfortable commuting; and

WHEREAS, access to seating in public transit is a fundamental issue of public health, accessibility, and equity, ensuring that all riders—regardless of physical ability or health status—can travel freely and without unnecessary hardship; and

WHEREAS, the removal of benches represents a callous disregard for the needs of transit riders, prioritizing cost-cutting over community well-being, and creating an exclusionary transit system that fails to serve the diverse population that depends on it; and

WHEREAS, the Health & Environment Committee of Manhattan Community Board Nine and the Uniform Services and Transportation Committee of Manhattan Community Board 9 recognize that access to seating is a public health issue and a basic necessity, particularly for populations at higher risk of health complications from prolonged standing; and

WHEREAS, public transportation should be inclusive, accessible, and designed to accommodate *all* New Yorkers, not just those who are able-bodied;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Manhattan Community Board Nine formally opposes the MTA's decision to remove benches from subway platforms and demands their immediate restoration in all affected stations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

Manhattan Community Board Nine calls upon the MTA to halt any further removals and to conduct a full review of the impact of bench removals on accessibility and rider well-being before implementing any additional changes to subway seating; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

Manhattan Community Board Nine urges elected officials, the NYC Department of Transportation, disability rights organizations, senior advocacy groups, and transit accessibility advocates to take action against this exclusionary practice and work toward a transit system that serves *all* New Yorkers with dignity, safety, and equity.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc: Hon. Antonio Delgado, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Robert Jackson, New York State Senate
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member
Hon. Dr. James V. McDonald, NYS Health Commissioner
Hon. Dr. Michelle E. Morse, NYC Health Commissioner
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation