

## National Legislation Report - Trumpeter – Dec-Jan. 2024 -

Submitted by Gail Headley Farrace - Co-Chair National Legislation

### Capitol Hill's DOGE Lawmakers Ready to Reduce Regulatory Burdens for Everyday Americans



Commentary - Rep. Ron Estes | December 23, 2024

|Link: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/12/23/doge-members-ready-reduce-burdens-americans/>



In Ronald Reagan's stirring 1964 "A Time for Choosing" speech, he said: "No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. So governments' programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth." Reagan's words were as true 60 years ago as they are today.

And, just as Americans did in the 1980 election, voters chose a new direction in November to slash a wasteful and burdensome government. President-elect Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, and the accompanying DOGE caucuses in Congress are the antidote to D.C.'s bloat.

A few weeks ago, entrepreneurs Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, Trump's designated government slashers, met with House Republicans to outline ideas and receive feedback. Their advocacy is a welcome departure from the current administration, which has pushed bigger government on the backs of hardworking Americans—sucking up more of their tax dollars and forcing unnecessary, burdensome regulations.

The federal government was designed to be limited in scope, as highlighted in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. But over the years, especially the past 100 years, it grew bigger and bigger, adding more burdens to Americans.

Rep. Ron Estes, a Republican, is a fifth-generation Kansan who has served that state's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2017. A senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, Estes was one of the first House lawmakers to join the DOGE Caucus. Rep. Ron Estes@RepRonEstes

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Efforts to scale back the size and scope of the federal government really aren't anything new.

I introduced legislation to cut nondefense spending by a mere 1% in the last Congress, but it was blocked by Democrats. And the House passed the REINS Act on June 14, 2023, to establish a congressional approval process for major rules. (The Senate needs to act.)

My proposed Executive Action Cost Transparency Act—which would help increase transparency and accountability at the Congressional Budget Office—cleared the House Budget Committee, yet most Democrats voted against it.

The problem is that each time Republicans on the Hill have tried to make our government more lean and accountable over the past four years, the cries from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—and all the bureaucratic offices all around—have stopped our efforts.

To provide a picture of how unbalanced our fight is, the executive branch employs close to 3 million people, not including members of the armed forces. Many are “working” from home—with only about 6% reporting in-person full time, per a recent report.

Yet the legislative branch, which consists of 535 voting members of the House and Senate, employs just over 1% of what the executive branch employs to carry out our duties in serving our constituents.

History shows us what we can expect.

In his first term, Trump pledged to cut two regulations for every new regulation imposed. He outpaced his pledge. His administration actually eliminated eight regulations for every new regulation created.

That's an incredible accomplishment. For small businesses, families, and state and local governments, rolling back the burdens of the federal government is welcome news.

Unnecessary regulations not only add red tape but a real financial cost. Since taking office, President Joe Biden's agency rulemakings have cost the federal taxpayer \$1.37 trillion and counting. This is 45 times the regulatory costs accumulated under Trump and almost five times the regulatory costs added under President Barack Obama.

We need to reverse course.

The recent Supreme Court decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, which rolls back its 40-year-old *Chevron* deference ruling, also will aid in reining in Washington's

rulemaking, pulling back the power of federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer by ensuring that courts rely on the intent of Congress and not the interpretation of the agencies.

Just last year, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a new rule that would negatively impact small meat processors in Kansas and across the country because of the steep costs of implementing major but unnecessary phosphate and nitrogen testing, which large-scale meat-processing operations can absorb and already conduct. I've introduced legislation to push back on this egregious overreach by the EPA.

The bureaucrats in D.C. have held far too much power for far too long. And Congress has ceded too much authority to unelected pencil pushers who make decisions without considering the resulting burdens placed on hardworking Americans.

My colleagues and I are prepared to work with Musk, Ramaswamy, and Trump to reduce our government's footprint.

Ronald Reagan was right: Government agencies and their rules don't ever disappear—voluntarily. But November 2024 was a time for choosing, and Americans chose a new direction to reduce the government waste, fraud, and abuse concentrated in the D.C. bubble and the burdens placed on Americans across the country.

Reagan offered more than rhetoric six decades ago. Everyday American workers and families are eager for Trump to deliver the same kind of results.

*We publish a variety of perspectives. Nothing written here is to be construed as representing the views of The Daily Signal.*

**Trump, NJ Governor Push for More Answers on Mysterious Drone Sightings - NTD News** Excerpt - By Rachel Acenas - December 13, 2024 – Politics

Link: [https://www.ntd.com/trump-nj-governor-push-for-more-answers-on-mysterious-drone-sightings\\_1034487.html?utm\\_source=ref\\_share&utm\\_campaign=email\\_share](https://www.ntd.com/trump-nj-governor-push-for-more-answers-on-mysterious-drone-sightings_1034487.html?utm_source=ref_share&utm_campaign=email_share)

President-elect Donald Trump said that the mysterious drones spotted in New Jersey and other states should be shot down if the federal government doesn't take action.

On Friday, Trump called for the government to be transparent with the American people.

"Mystery Drone sightings all over the Country," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. "Can this really be happening without our government's knowledge. I don't think so! Let the public know, and now. Otherwise, shoot them down!!!"

The White House, however, said that it needs more definitive information to make a decision on whether to take them down. "We don't have enough conclusions to take that kind of policy action," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told Fox News on Friday.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy has urged President Joe Biden to allocate more federal resources to investigate mysterious drone sightings. In a letter to Biden on Thursday, Murphy noted that existing laws limit the ability of state and local law enforcement to counter unmanned aircraft systems and that more federal resources are needed to understand what is behind the activity. Murphy confirmed that numerous drones have been spotted since Nov. 18.

On Thursday night, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan revealed he saw drones himself, expressing concern that they were flying 25 miles from the nation's capital. The federal government's response to the incident is "unacceptable," Hogan wrote in a Friday post on X.

Rep. Josh Gottheimer (R-N.J.) called on the FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to hold a public briefing on the matter, give local and state agencies the tools they need to monitor drone activity and allow them to deploy assets that can safely take down the drones. "New Jersey can't become the Wild West of drone activity," Gottheimer said during a news conference on Friday. "No state can become the Wild West of drone activity." In addition to Maryland and New Jersey, additional drone sightings have recently been reported in southern California and Connecticut, according to local media outlets.

Following the drone sightings over New Jersey, the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence and the Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a joint hearing Tuesday to discuss the matter. Robert W. Wheeler Jr., assistant director of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group, was among the officials who were pressed on the drone sightings over New Jersey.

Wheeler said the FBI is investigating the "unexplained sightings." "We do not attribute that to an individual or a group yet," Wheeler said. "We're investigating, but I don't have an answer of who's responsible for that—if one or more people that are responsible for those drone flights." The hearing prompted frustration among lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. "We should be doing some very urgent intelligence analysis and take them out of the skies, especially if they're flying over airports or military bases," Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) said.

The White House says that a review of the reported sightings shows that many of the drones are actually manned aircraft being flown lawfully. John Kirby, White House national security spokesman, said that there were no reported sightings in any restricted airspace. "We have no evidence at this time that the reported drone sightings pose a national security or public safety threat or have a foreign nexus," the FBI and DHS said in a joint statement.

The FBI and DHS continue to deploy personnel and technology to investigate the situation to "confirm whether the reported drone flights are actually drones or are instead manned aircraft or otherwise inaccurate sightings," according to the statement.

## US Drone Mystery Deepens: What Isn't the Government Telling Us? - Dale Hurd - 12-16-2024



Link: <https://cbn.com/news/us/us-drone-mystery-deepens-what-isnt-government-telling-us>

The mystery only seems to deepen about who or what is behind the drone activity in the eastern U.S. And all agree the government needs to say more. The mysterious drones have been spotted in the skies above at least 7 states from New York to Virginia, including dozens seen in New Jersey.

New York Sen. Chuck Schumer wants the government to use a drone called the Robin to find out what they are. "People who have questions about these drones should not have to shake an 'Eight Ball' to get an answer. They want real answers, and the Robin can supply those answers. And that's why we want them here," he said.

The FAA shut down Stewart International Airport north of New York City Friday night after multiple reported drone sightings in the area.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told ABC's This Week program that this is not a national security threat. "We know of no foreign involvement with respect to the sightings in the Northeast. And we are vigilant in investigating this matter," Mayorkas said.

John Ferguson, the CEO of Saxon Aerospace, a drone manufacturer, believes those drones are trying to detect something. "They have no reason to be in the air at night unless you're doing some type of 'ISR' work – intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance – looking for bad guys or looking for a search and rescue victim, or law enforcement or some type of military project."

Former CIA operations officer Laura Ballman told Fox that statements by officials make her think the drone activity could be a classified exercise. "The statements that have been made by John Kirby, who has said that these objects are not operating illegally," Ballman gave as an example.

Congressman Jim Himes on the House Intelligence Committee does not believe the drones are foreign and that by not being more forthcoming, the government is causing conspiracy theories to spread.

Himes said, "There's a lot of us (in Congress) who are pretty frustrated right now. The answer 'We don't know' is not a good enough answer. Now, let me say something what I know with confidence: It is not the Iranians, it is not the Chinese, they aren't Martians. I know that's very unsatisfying for people who want a Hollywood movie out of this."

The FBI says it is processing roughly 5,000 drone-related tips but found less than 100 have generated credible leads.

The House Intelligence Committee is expected to receive a classified briefing on the drone sightings Tuesday.

## **NEW: House Homeland Releases “China Threat Snapshot” Exposing CCP-Related Espionage, Acts of Transnational Repression on U.S. Soil**

October 17, 2024 (**Old news but important to both GOP and DEMS**)

Homeland Security Committee | Republican

U.S. House of Representatives

H2-176 Ford House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515 - (202) 226-8417 - Minority Website – (Excerpt)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) released a new “China Threat Snapshot” assessment, detailing recent instances of Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-related espionage and acts of transnational repression in the United States. The assessment also documents recent CHS legislative efforts to address these national security threats posed by the CCP.

“The Chinese Communist Party is not satisfied with destroying freedom and repressing its citizens within its own borders. Beijing has continually encroached upon American sovereignty to spy, intimidate, and harass not only defectors, but even American citizens,” Chairman Green said. “To be clear, our adversary is not the Chinese people, but the threat that comes from the tyrannical regime that oppresses its own people, commits genocide, censors speech, and seeks to undermine representative government. It is important we remain clear-eyed about the threat the CCP poses to the security of the American people so we are prepared to counter its malign influence at every turn.”

Link below to The complete “China Threat Snapshot”

<https://homeland.house.gov/2024/10/17/new-house-homeland-releases-china-threat-snapshot-exposing-ccp-related-espionage-acts-of-transnational-repression-on-u-s-soil/#:~:text=The%20complete%20%E2%80%9CChina%20Threat%20Snapshot%E2%80%9D%20is%20available%C2%A0here.>

### **Read More in the Daily Caller via Philip Lenczycki**

CCP-related threats to the homeland have grown rapidly in recent years. It is becoming increasingly evident that China’s oppressive arm reaches far beyond its own borders to actively oppose democracy, silence dissent, and spy on the United States.

From February 2021 to August 2024, there have been over 55 CCP-related espionage cases in 20 states including the transmission of sensitive military information, the stealing of trade secrets, the execution of transnational repression schemes, and the obstruction of justice.

According to the FBI, about 80 percent of economic espionage prosecutions allege conduct that would benefit China, and there is at least some nexus to China in around 60 percent of all trade secret theft cases.

FBI Director Wray has **testified** that that the FBI opens new cases to counter the CCP’s intelligence operations roughly every 12 hours.

According to the [Freedom House](#), the CCP is a top perpetrator of transnational repression in the world to silence dissidents critical of the regime. In January, the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, led by Chairman August Pfluger (R-TX), [heard testimony from Dr. Bob Fu](#), a Chinese dissident and victim of heinous acts of transnational repression by the CCP. Fu's testimony informed the introduction of three bipartisan bills to counter transnational repression on U.S. soil, which have since been [advanced](#) out of the Committee.

Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration has overseen the largest influx of Chinese nationals illegally crossing the Southwest border than any previous administration. While the motivating factors driving Chinese nationals to cross the border are multifaceted, a thorough review is warranted due to the glaring security vulnerabilities at the border. In FY24 alone, Border Patrol agents have recorded [more than 36,000 apprehensions of Chinese nationals](#)—more than all those recorded [from FY07-20 combined](#). In March, the Committee released a [“Startling Stats” fact sheet](#) documenting the dramatic increase.

## Speaker Johnson Bars Men From Women's Bathrooms at Capitol

Excerpt - NTD News – By [Arjun Singh](#) Nov.20, 2024 - [Congress](#)

***Editor's note: News you can do without, but hopefully this is finally a sign the left's Woke Ideology is beginning to wane!!***

Link: [https://www.ntd.com/speaker-johnson-bars-men-from-womens-bathrooms-at-capitol-1030003.html?utm\\_source=ref\\_share&utm\\_campaign=email\\_share](https://www.ntd.com/speaker-johnson-bars-men-from-womens-bathrooms-at-capitol-1030003.html?utm_source=ref_share&utm_campaign=email_share)

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Mike Johnson announced on Nov. 20 that he will ban persons from using bathrooms that do not correspond with their biological sex.

In this year's general election, Delaware state Sen. Sarah McBride—a male who identifies as a woman—was elected to represent the state's at-large district in the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first person who identifies as transgender to be elected to Congress. McBride's election prompted Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) to announce she'd file a resolution to block McBride from using women's restroom facilities at the House of Representatives, sparking opposition from House Democrats.

Johnson, after declining to express an opinion on the subject on Nov. 19, announced on Nov. 20 that he will limit access to restrooms based on biological sex. The measure effectively blocks McBride from using the women's restroom. “All single-sex facilities in the Capitol and House Office Buildings—such as restrooms, changing rooms, and locker rooms—are reserved for individuals of that biological sex,” wrote Johnson in a statement. “It is important to note that each Member office has its own private restroom, and unisex restrooms are available throughout the Capitol ... Women deserve women's only spaces.”

His ruling does not apply to U.S. Senate facilities where the Senate Majority Leader exercises equivalent control. Control of the Senate will pass to Republicans on Jan. 3, 2025, at which point a similar ruling could be imposed there. House Rules grant the



speaker large administrative control over facilities, and the Republican Conference is unlikely to act against the decision when it adopts the House's Rules Package for the 119th Congress on Jan. 3, 2025.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) denounced efforts to block McBride from women's-only facilities.

"The notion that this incoming small House Republican Conference majority is beginning to transition to the new Congress by bullying a member of Congress, this is what we're doing? This is the lesson that you've drawn from the election in November?" he asked during a Nov. 19 press conference. "We will not hesitate to call that out."

## **Trump Could Prompt Supreme Court Ruling on Birthright Citizenship** - By Sam Dorman - November 24, 2024 - Updated:

November 25, 2024 – *Excerpt From The Epoch Times*

**Link:** [https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/trump-could-prompt-supreme-court-ruling-on-birthright-citizenship-5763330?utm\\_campaign=socialshare\\_email&utm\\_source=email](https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/trump-could-prompt-supreme-court-ruling-on-birthright-citizenship-5763330?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email)

Among President-elect Donald Trump's plans for immigration is a move to end a longstanding practice of granting something known as "birthright citizenship" to children who are born in the United States of noncitizen parents, including those here illegally. Last year, he vowed to sign an executive order directing agencies to abandon that practice, if reelected. How exactly Trump will change policies within agencies is unclear, but experts indicate he has options.

Regardless, revoking birthright citizenship could impact waves of new illegal immigrants and change the incentives for so-called birth tourism, wherein an expectant mother arrives in the United States just before giving birth.

During his first term, Trump attempted to combat the phenomenon through a policy targeting the country's temporary visa program. However, Trump chooses to end birthright citizenship will likely provoke a legal battle of constitutional proportions and may cause a related case to reach the Supreme Court, as Trump predicted during his first term.

The concept of birthright citizenship stems from the 14th Amendment, which states in part, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

Lora Ries, who serves as director of the Border Security and Immigration Center at the Heritage Foundation, told The Epoch Times that Trump could start by directing the State Department and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to interpret the 14th Amendment in a particular way. "I don't believe that a statute is necessary" or that a "constitutional amendment is necessary," said Ries, who also served as the deputy chief of staff for DHS during Trump's first administration.



Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) has introduced legislation that would end birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants. Immigration Reform Law Institute director of litigation Chris Hajec indicated, however, that a Supreme Court decision will be necessary to effect long-term change.

“A law from Congress wouldn’t be enough,” he told The Epoch Times, noting that Trump’s executive policies and any act of Congress would likely end in the courts. It’s unclear how many individuals will seek validation of birthright citizenship in the future, but the Pew Research Center estimated in 2016 that about 4 million children in the United States had illegal immigrant parents.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which seeks to “reduce the negative impact of uncontrolled immigration,” stated last year that taxpayers annually spend “approximately \$182 billion to cover the costs incurred from the presence of more than 15.5 million illegal aliens and about 5.4 million citizen children of illegal aliens.”

While Hajec expects a Supreme Court decision on the issue, he doubts the court would somehow retroactively revoke birthright citizenship for individuals who already have it.

“I think the court would just say whether this prospective, forward-looking regulation of the Trump administration was lawful,” he said. The court could allow Trump’s birthright citizenship policy by dismissing a challenge that arises from a lower court’s approval of it. It could also agree to take up the lower court’s decision, likely prompting a reexamination of a longstanding precedent from the 19th century.

### **Supreme Court Precedent**

In *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, a majority of the court held that the 14th Amendment granted birthright citizenship to a Chinese man whose parents were legally present in the United States. Some have questioned whether the reasoning in that decision applies to children of the illegal immigrants who have crossed the southern border. “The court only held that a child born of lawful, permanent residents was a U.S. citizen,” former Federal Election Commission member Hans von Spakovsky said in 2018. “That is a far cry from saying that a child born of individuals who are here illegally must be considered a U.S. citizen.” Many other groups disagreed, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which has vowed to combat Trump’s agenda. The organization said earlier this year, “Theories that attempt to carve children out of this guarantee [of citizenship] based on the immigration status of their parents are legally wrong, morally repugnant, and dangerous attacks on a core civil right.” The finer points of interpreting that decision could be determined by whoever is sitting on the Supreme Court when Trump’s policy lands there. With the prospect of Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas retiring, speculation has emerged that Trump might replace either or both of them with one of the lower federal court judges he appointed in his first term.

### **Understanding the Constitution: How States May Respond to Illegal Immigration - Part V: About Birthright Citizenship - The Epoch Times**

Trump Vows to End Birthright Citizenship If Elected in 2024. One of those is Judge James Ho, a former Thomas clerk who serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

In an article from 2006, Ho said that a constitutional amendment is the only way to restrict birthright citizenship and argued that the 14th Amendment's phrasing applies to illegal immigrants, who are subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

"When we speak of a person who is subject to our jurisdiction, we do not limit ourselves to only those who have sworn allegiance to the United States," he wrote. Citing criminals as an example, he said that "being 'subject to the jurisdiction' of the United States" was not "limited to those who have always complied with U.S. law."

### **'War or Invasion'**

Trump could receive sympathy from a judge such as Ho and prompt more complicated legal arguments if he decides to tailor his policy to a particular situation. Although Ho has generally supported birthright citizenship, an interview published in *The Volokh Conspiracy* on Nov. 11 indicated that he saw the recent wave of illegal immigrants as part of an invasion that fell outside the bounds of the 14th Amendment. Ho told South Texas College of Law Professor Josh Blackman that "birthright citizenship obviously doesn't apply in case of war or invasion."

Trump has described the situation at the southern border as an "invasion" and suggested via his Truth Social platform that he would use military assets to address it. On Nov. 18, he posted "True!!" in response to Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton stating, "Reports are the incoming @realDonaldTrump administration prepared to declare a national emergency and will use military assets to reverse the Biden invasion through a mass deportation program." Earlier this year, Ho penned a concurring opinion in which he defended the idea that Texas could erect its own barrier to curb illegal immigration as part of its constitutional right to defend against an invasion. In doing so, he compared Texas to presidents defending the United States as a whole and indicated that courts couldn't review whether presidents had improperly designated something an invasion under Article IV of the Constitution.

Section 4 of Article IV states, "The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a Republican form of government and shall protect each of them against invasion."

Declaring an invasion would seem to align with an NPR poll from 2022 when a majority of Americans said there was an "invasion" at the southern border.

In July, George Mason University law professor Ilya Somin criticized Ho's interpretation in an article on *The Volokh Conspiracy*. Somin acknowledged that while "actions by non-governmental groups can qualify as 'invasion'... it does not follow that illegal migration, drug smuggling, or other ordinary criminal activity qualify."

Perhaps previewing future legal battles, Ho's concurrence compared the situation at the southern border to the threat of terrorism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In his interview with Blackman, Ho compared the issue to the debate over unlawful combatants after 9/11, noting that birthright citizenship didn't apply to those combatants. A similar issue arose during Trump's first term when he attempted to prevent terrorism by barring entry from certain nations that were known terror hot spots. The ACLU argued, among other things, that his so-called "travel ban" targeted Muslims and therefore violated the First Amendment.

Trump ultimately won at the Supreme Court, which held in *Trump v. Hawaii* that he acted within the bounds of his authority under a law that allows presidents to designate certain aliens as inadmissible. It's unclear how the current court would rule on Trump using national security as a basis for attempting to exclude certain classes of individuals from birthright citizenship.

## **Canada to Strengthen Border After Trump Tariff Threat, Top Official Says –** Excerpt - The Epoch Times

Link: [https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/canada-to-strengthen-border-after-trump-tariff-threat-top-official-says-5769051?utm\\_campaign=socialshare\\_email&utm\\_source=email](https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/canada-to-strengthen-border-after-trump-tariff-threat-top-official-says-5769051?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email)

A top Canadian official confirmed the country will strengthen the security of its border with the United States after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with President-elect Donald Trump following the latter's threat of a 25-percent tariff if nothing is done.

Trudeau flew to Florida on Nov. 29 to have dinner with Trump, who last week said he would place tariffs on Canadian imports unless it prevents illegal immigrants and drugs from crossing the border. Trump also warned he would issue a similar tariff on Mexico if the country fails to curb illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who sat at the head table with Trudeau and Trump, said the two men discussed additional security measures Canada would be introducing.

"We're going to look to procure, for example, additional drones, additional police helicopters, we're going to redeploy personnel ... we believe that the border is secure," he told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

"It's important, I think, to show Canadians and the Americans that we're stepping up in a visible and muscular way, and that's exactly what we're going to do," he said, promising more details in the days and weeks to come.

Canada sends 75 percent of its goods and services exports to the United States, meaning that tariffs would badly hurt its economy.

On Saturday, Trump said that his meeting with Trudeau was "very productive," according to a post he made on Truth Social. "We discussed many important topics that will require both countries to work together to address."

Trump said they spoke about "the fentanyl and drug crisis that has decimated so many lives as a result of illegal immigration" along with "fair trade deals that do not jeopardize American workers, and the massive trade deficit the U.S. has with Canada."

The president-elect also spoke with the Canadian prime minister on trade, energy, and the Arctic, although he did not provide more details.

For his part, Trudeau told reporters in West Palm Beach that he had an “excellent conversation” with Trump during the dinner at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence.

Aside from the prime minister’s comment, Ontario Premier Doug Ford told reporters last week that he wanted to see more funding for border security and offered Ontario Provincial Police resources to help with the border.

“We need action, including more permanent funding for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada Border Services Agency,” Ford said Wednesday.

As for Mexico, the country’s recently elected president Claudia Sheinbaum said she spoke with Trump by phone and had an “excellent conversation” with the president-elect following the tariff threat.

“Caravans are not arriving at the northern border because they are being taken care of in Mexico,” she said in a translated letter that was sent by the Mexican Embassy to The Epoch Times, referring to the phenomena of caravans of migrants traveling through Central America and Mexico to the United States.

Trump said in a Nov. 27 Truth Social post that their phone call was productive and that Sheinbaum had “agreed to stop Migration through Mexico, and into the United States, effectively closing our Southern Border.”

“We also talked about what can be done to stop the massive drug inflow into the United States, and also, U.S. consumption of these drugs,” he said.

However, an hour after Trump’s comments, Sheinbaum refuted on social media platform X the claims that Mexico had agreed to close the U.S.–Mexico border to illegal immigrants during her call with Trump. The Mexican leader said she “explained to him the comprehensive strategy that Mexico has followed to address the migration phenomenon, respecting human rights.”

Aside from Mexico and Canada, Trump also warned he would issue an additional 10 percent tariff on the Chinese regime if it fails to curb the production of fentanyl precursors.  
*Reuters contributed to this report.*

## **Why Medical Establishment Deserves Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

**The Dailey Signal Commentary – Tyler O’Neil | November 26, 2024**

*Tyler O’Neil is managing editor of The Daily Signal and the author of two books: “Making Hate Pay: The Corruption of the Southern Poverty Law Center,” and “The Woketopus: The Dark Money Cabal Manipulating the Federal Government.”*

Link: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/11/26/why-medical-establishment-deserves-robert-f-kennedy-jr/>

I don’t always agree with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald Trump’s nominee to head the Department of Health and Human Services, but I can’t help but feel a bit of

healthy schadenfreude at the prospect of America's corrupt health care establishment getting the bitter taste of well-deserved disruptive medicine.

Kennedy isn't exactly a conservative. He's on the record supporting abortion, and he has a long track record of working not just in environmental conservation (which I support), but in advancing climate alarmism, which I consider not only wrong, but disruptive for freedom, prosperity, and environmental protection.

Yet Kennedy also represents the inquisitive spirit that the medical establishment has fought tooth-and-nail to suppress, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Big Health's recent scandals make the kind of shake-up Robert F. Kennedy Jr. promises not only necessary, but also a just retribution.

### **The Food Pyramid**

As a millennial, I remember growing up with the food pyramid—the now-infamous graphic telling children that they need to consume daily: six to 11 servings of grains (bread, cereal, rice, and pasta), a mere three to five servings of vegetables, two to four servings of fruit, and only two to three servings of meat, poultry, fish, etc. For a long time, the Food and Drug Administration did not encourage Americans to limit their intake of sugar.

Partly due to this advice, and due to my own appetite, I gained weight and my body-mass index reached a level at which I was technically obese shortly after college. In my early 20s, however, I started cataloguing my macros (protein, carbohydrates, sugars, etc.) and realized my problem. I was eating a high-carbohydrate, high-sugar diet, and I wondered why I didn't lose weight.

In recent years, I have prioritized meat and vegetables and indulged more sparingly in grains and sugars. I'm happy to say that—at least for now—I am no longer overweight by body mass.

I had to learn this basic education in nutrition in part because our system is almost engineered to make us unhealthy. From heavy advertising for sugary sodas and carb-heavy snacks to the suggestion that high-sugar orange juice and cereals are healthy for breakfast, Americans have been gaslit into a vicious cycle of malnutrition.

Why did the food pyramid encourage so much bread, rice, and cereal? Well, the U.S. government has been subsidizing grains and sugar for decades. The sugar industry paid scientists to blame fats for diseases like diabetes. How much corruption is responsible for Americans' false assumptions about what is and isn't healthy?

Kennedy's plan to ask questions about the additives in food and to press federal agencies to reconsider nutrition guidelines is long past due. America does need to become healthy again, and an FDA shakeup may help a great deal.

### **COVID-19**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical establishment lied to the American people, Big Tech companies censored scientific research and personal experiences that conflicted with Big Health's messaging, and basic rights were taken away on the assumption that people would die if they returned to normal life.

By May 2020, some analysts had concluded that the COVID-19 lockdowns had already cost more in terms of disrupting normal life and damaging mental and physical health than they could possibly save in terms of preventing the spread of the disease. Early data showed that the elderly and those with co-morbidities faced the most risk from COVID-19, yet many schools remained closed well into 2021.

Medical authorities called for lockdowns, but they also seemed to make an exception for “social justice protests” amid the Black Lives Matter riots following the death of George Floyd in May 2020.

The Twitter Files and other revelations showed that companies like Twitter (before Elon Musk bought it) and Facebook suppressed the expert opinions of doctors like Jay Bhattacharya because they disagreed with the government’s narrative on COVID-19.

Communications uncovered in Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey’s lawsuit against the Biden administration revealed that President Joe Biden’s White House pressured Facebook to suppress “often true content” concerning personal experiences with COVID-19 vaccines.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, then head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, insisted in 2021 that “attacks on me, quite frankly, are attacks on science.” Yet Fauci and other health officials told a series of what they presented as noble lies in order to control the public amid the unfolding pandemic. He initially said face masks would not be necessary, and he later claimed he had said that to avoid causing a panic. He later told New York Times reporter Donald McNeil that he moved the target estimate for vaccinations enabling herd immunity in order to encourage more Americans to take the jab.

COVID-19 left Americans rightly skeptical of the medical establishment, and another scandal arguably made things even worse.

### **Transgender ‘Health’**

The medical establishment’s worst abuse arguably involves the support of experimental medical interventions for minors and others in the name of affirming a transgender identity and resolving gender dysphoria (the painful and persistent sense of identifying with the gender opposite one’s biological sex).

In the name of compassion, medical interest groups have lobbied for “gender-affirming care,” despite evidence that this “care” leaves kids stunted, scarred, and infertile. Doctors at the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, an activist group masquerading as the authority on transgender health, have acknowledged that this “care” has side effects such as cancer in teens, reduced sexual function, and the lack of informed consent on procedures with lifelong impacts.

Americans viscerally grasp the horror of putting kids through experimental drugs just because Tommy wants to be called Sally. So why does Big Health push this insanity?

Jennifer Bilek has done yeoman’s work unearthing how billionaires who made their

fortune in medicine have backed the LGBTQ movement, particularly the “T.”

Yet, transgender “treatments” also reap rewards for Big Pharma. When a male patient takes cross-sex hormones to appear female, that’s a lifelong prescription. When patients get surgery to remove their sex organs and replace them with a facsimile of the opposite sex’s organs, that’s not just a one-and-done surgery. Not only are there often complications—which can be deadly—but these new organs often require grotesque forms of maintenance. **All of this keeps patients coming back.**

The medical nonprofit watchdog Do No Harm launched a database last month, revealing the 225 hospitals that provide “puberty blockers,” cross-sex hormones, and surgeries to minors. This is a scandal of epic proportions. Not only is the medical industry promoting an ideology that is at odds with the basic biology of male and female, but it is urging kids down a trail of lifelong harm, apparently in pursuit of profit.

### **Activist Health Groups**

Given the COVID-19 and transgender scandals, it should come as no surprise that American medical associations have become activist groups, intent on pushing leftist agendas.

Yet, even the more cynical among us would be taken aback to hear that out of 28 medical specialty societies, 26 have adopted official positions on contentious political issues such as affirmative action, climate change, immigration, and the conflict between Israel and Hamas since 2010. As my colleague Elizabeth Mitchell exclusively reported, the medical nonprofit Do No Harm performed the essential analysis, showing just how politicized medical institutions have become.

“The politicization of medical societies represents a betrayal of the public’s trust in health care,” Do No Harm Chairman Dr. Stanley Goldfarb told The Daily Signal. “Dues-paying members of the societies and the public they serve should expect nothing less than institutional neutrality from all specialist groups.” America’s Big Health industry needs a come-to-Jesus moment, and the iconoclast Robert F. Kennedy Jr. seems like just the kind of guy to shake it up.

## **Biden admin locks in deal for federal employees to work from home through Trump presidency**

December 4, 2024 | Chris Donaldson

**BPR Insider**

(*Editor’s Note - This is Biden’s attempt to make the deep state permanent!*)

Link: <https://www.bizpacreview.com/2024/12/04/biden-admin-locks-in-deal-for-federal-employees-to-work-from-home-through-trump-presidency-1507199/>

Post-election efforts to erect roadblocks to change before President-elect Donald J. Trump takes over are underway with tens of thousands of federal employees getting their work-from-home privilege extended through the end of the incoming administration.

A Biden administration official just agreed to an updated contract with a powerful union



that locks in telework through 2029, complicating efforts to reform government waste by requiring federal workers to return to the office.

On Tuesday, Bloomberg reported that the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) reached a deal with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to protect the employees from being forced to actually show up to collect a government paycheck.

The union which represents 42,000 SSA workers “reached an agreement with the agency last week that will protect telework until 2029 in an updated contract,” the outlet reported, citing a message to members that it reviewed.

The contract was signed by outgoing President Joe Biden’s former SSA Commissioner Martin O’Malley who resigned from his job last month. The agreement allows the SSA to “maintain current levels of telework,” the union’s chapter president Rich Couture wrote, according to Bloomberg.

“This deal will secure not just telework for SSA employees but will secure staffing levels through prevention of higher attrition, which in turn will secure the ability of the Agency to serve the public,” Couture told the outlet. News of the deal drew a strong reaction from House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. James Comer (R-KY) who has been a vocal critic of the remote work which is ripe for abuse by government loafers.

“Our government needs to show up for the people it serves,” Comer wrote, sharing an Oversight Committee post highlighting the Bloomberg report that said, “Don’t get too comfortable.”

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy who will head up the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) plan to make deep layoffs across the federal bureaucracy that could save taxpayers billions of dollars and have been critical of remote work.

“If you require most of those federal bureaucrats to just say, like normal working Americans, you come to work five days a week, a lot of them won’t want to do that,” Ramaswamy said during a Fox News appearance last month. “If you have many voluntary reductions in force of the workforce in the federal government along the way, great. That’s a good side effect of those policies as well.”

“Requiring federal employees to come to the office five days a week would result in a wave of voluntary terminations that we welcome: If federal employees don’t want to show up, American taxpayers shouldn’t pay them for the Covid-era privilege of staying home,” the two wrote in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed that outlined their plans for DOGE.

Chris Donaldson is an ordinary American who is concerned about rampant corruption as well as the ongoing attacks on our way of life by those who have contempt for our hard-earned freedoms. A Navy veteran, he has been a frequent contributor to conservative websites and resides in Florida.

## Christopher Wray is resigning as FBI Director:



News December 11 2024

Fred Lucal

SPECIAL EDITION

Excerpt From The Daily Signal

Link: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/12/11/wray-exiting-as-fbi-director/>

Link: [Multiple news outlets](#) are reporting:

Link: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/12/11/wray-exiting-as-fbi-director/>

Christopher Wray presided over the FBI's raid of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in 2022. Wray, who President Donald Trump appointed in 2017, had three years left in his term. However, the move isn't as a surprise as now President-elect Trump announced he would nominate Kash Patel to be the new FBI director.

Trump happily accepted the news in a [Truth Social post](#).  
@realDonaldTrump

NTDAILY

The resignation of Christopher Wray is a great day for America as it will end the Weaponization of what has become known as the United States Department of Injustice. I just don't know what happened to him. We will now restore the Rule of Law for all Americans. Under the leadership of Christopher Wray, the FBI illegally raided my home, without cause, worked diligently on illegally impeaching and indicting me, and has done everything else to interfere with the success and future of America. They have used their vast powers to threaten and destroy many innocent Americans, some of which will never be able to recover from what has been done to them. Kash Patel is the most qualified Nominee to lead the FBI in the Agency's History, and is committed to helping ensure that Law, Order, and Justice will be brought back to our Country again, and soon. As everyone knows, I have great respect for the rank-and-file of the FBI, and they have great respect for me. They want to see these changes every bit as much as I do but, more importantly, the American People are demanding a strong, but fair, System of Justice. We want our FBI back, and that will now happen. I look forward to Kash Patel's confirmation, so that the process of Making the FBI Great Again can begin. Thank you!

Wray also butted heads with Republicans in Congress—including Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio—over the bureau's monitoring of traditional Catholics as well as parents speaking at public school board meetings.

On Monday, [Grassley wrote a letter to Wray](#) about the bureau's many failures. This included a failure to investigate potential corruption of President Joe Biden and his family; and refusing to provide information to Congress about conduct at the FBI. — **Editor Note:** *Click on the [Grassley blue link above](#) – very long but worth reading!*

"These failures are serious enough and their pattern widespread enough to have shattered my confidence in your leadership and the confidence and hope many others in Congress placed in you," Grassley wrote to Wray.

Under Wray's watch, the FBI faced numerous controversies. This included alleged targeting of FBI whistleblowers, who are supposed to have legal protection. Earlier this year, the FBI reinstated bureau employee [Marcus Allen](#) and agreed to back pay after initially placing him on a two-year unpaid suspension and revoking his security clearance. Allen had challenged Wray's narrative on the Jan. 6, 2021, protest. Also during Wray's tenure, the FBI raided the home of pro-life activist [Mark Houck](#).

This included alleged targeting of FBI whistleblowers, who are supposed to have legal protection. Earlier this year, the FBI reinstated bureau employee Marcus Allen and agreed to back pay after initially placing him on a two-year unpaid suspension and revoking his security clearance. Allen had challenged Wray's narrative on the Jan. 6, 2021, protest.

## House Overwhelmingly Passes 'Crucial Communism Teaching Act'

From Epoch Times - By Stacy Robinson – Dec.6,2024 – Congress

Link: [https://www.ntd.com/house-overwhelmingly-passes-crucial-communism-teaching-act-1033082.html?utm\\_source=ref\\_share&utm\\_campaign=email\\_share](https://www.ntd.com/house-overwhelmingly-passes-crucial-communism-teaching-act-1033082.html?utm_source=ref_share&utm_campaign=email_share)

WASHINGTON—The House on Dec. 6 passed the Crucial Communism Teaching Act with a vote of 327–62. The bill, introduced by Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-Fla.) and cosponsored by 33 members of the House, seeks to address a gap in the education system related to the history of communism.

“Communism is one of the most destructive political ideologies the world has ever seen,” Rep. Salazar said when reintroducing the bill earlier this year. “The Crucial Communism Teaching Act is important because our youth must remember the crimes of the communists, including those inflicted upon my constituents and their families in Florida’s 27th district.” She first introduced the bill in Sept. 2021, but it was not brought up for a vote at that time. Specifically, the bill seeks to educate American students that “communism has led to the deaths of over 100,000,000 victims worldwide,” and that “1,500,000,000 people still suffer under communism.”

Ahead of the vote, Rep. Danny Burgess (R-Fla.) warned that many youth have been taught to see communism as something desirable, noting that a recent report indicated “half of GenZ students were unaware that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is responsible for more deaths than Nazi Germany.” He also said that more than a quarter of Generation Z students view communism favorably and that 20 percent think that it is a better system than capitalism.

The curriculum will be developed by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, an entity created by a unanimous vote of Congress in 1993 under President Bill Clinton. “American students deserve to know the truth: communism is not a promise for a more equitable future—it is a brutal ideology that runs counter to democracy and the very principles our nation was founded upon,” said Ken Pope, CEO of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

The legislation mandates that the new educational program will discuss “certain political ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United States.” It also makes space for an oral historical series called “Portraits in Patriotism,” which will feature stories from survivors of communist regimes. The bill’s authors said they wanted the survivors to describe the contrast between life under those political systems and life in the United States.

During a floor debate ahead of its passage, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) said the bill was “narrowly tailored” and did not address more important issues such as “achievement gaps” and affordable education.

Scott also said the bill “skirts around key historical lessons,” because it did not mention fascism directly, or teach about the House Un-American Activities Committee.

That initiative, led by former Sen. Joseph McCarthy, sought to stamp out communism in the United States in the mid-20th century but has come to be viewed by many as too heavy-handed in its approach. - *From The Epoch Times.* –

## BPR Funnies

