

National Legislation Report - Trumpeter – Feb. Mar. 2025 -

Submitted by Gail Headley Farrace - Co-Chair National Legislation

Famously liberal publication admits 'Trump is a great president' January 22, 2025 | By Kevin Haggerty



link: <https://www.bizpacreview.com/2025/01/22/famously-liberal-publication-admits-trump-is-a-great-president-1517723/>

Let's Start out on a Positive Note! Left leaning *Politico's* global editor-in-chief, John Harris, recently wrote, after viewing President Donald Trump, in an entirely new light "He is a force of history. "It is Time to Admit It: Trump Is a Great President. He's Still Trying To Be a Good one. **What a great admission**

For many in the pundit class, former Vice President Kamala Harris' November loss was as much a defeat of their own efforts to waylay the GOP leader on his path to return to the White House. Now, amid the pomp of the inauguration and the commanding opening salvo of Trump's first hours back in the Oval Office,

The column began contrasting views of the inaugural address from supporters and opponents, at once here "to lead an American revival" and "wholly uncharitable to the people... who he defeated so convincingly."

"In one light, it was all quite familiar," wrote Harris, "But the second occasion of Trump taking the oath of office also put him in an entirely new light. For the first time, he is holding power under circumstances in which reasonable people cannot deny a basic fact: **He is the greatest American figure of his era.**"

"He is not a fluke, who got elected initially in 2016 almost entirely because of the infirmities of his opponent. He is not someone the American public somehow misunderstands — as though Democrats and the news media have not spent 10 years forcefully highlighting the risks of his record and character," argued the editor-in-chief.

Contending the point was not about subjective views of the president, but rather the manner in which Trump managed to become the leader of the Republican Party, live rent-free in the heads of corporate media figures, and ultimately rebound from the outcome of the 2020 election to return to the White House, Harris turned his attention to what acceptance of the president's greatness meant for the left.

"For Democrats — and most excruciatingly [former President Joe] Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris — the inaugural ceremony and all it symbolizes were a meal made of ingredients scraped off the kennel floor. Once they gargle and spit, however, the opposition party may find something liberating about the moment," he suggested. "That is because they can no longer place confidence in a strategy that once looked plausible

but now has been exposed as illusion. They cannot push Trump to the margins, by treating him as a momentary anomaly or simply denouncing him as lawless and illegitimate.”

Harris argued that “similarly large arguments” would be required to “defeat” the “large historical argument” that Trump represented, lived out in his inaugural address and the hours after resuming power where he made America First a focal point by taking steps to secure the border, halt the march of woke agendas, put an end to censorship and resume the nation’s energy independence.

The editor-in-chief also brought up lawfare and the “Uncommon psychological toughness” displayed by the president amid the attacks.

Of course, despite Trump stating that he hoped his legacy would be that of a uniter, objective opinions of the GOP leader still held a place of prominence as the column claimed, “He’s ready to use his second term, and second chance, to divide the nation over immigration, over foreign policy, over school curriculums that allegedly teach ‘our children to be ashamed of themselves, in many cases to hate our country,’ and a long roster of other subjects.”

How USAID went woke and destroyed itself Secretary of State Rubio takes over USAID as it's in the middle of an enormous crisis

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/uncategorized/2025/02/at-usaid-waste-and-abuse-runs-deep/>

For decades, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been unaccountable to taxpayers as it funnels massive sums of money to the ridiculous — and, in many cases, malicious — pet projects of entrenched bureaucrats, with next-to-no oversight.

Here are only a few examples of the WASTE and ABUSE:

\$1.5 million to “advance diversity equity and inclusion in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities”

\$70,000 for production of a “DEI musical” in Ireland

\$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam

\$47,000 for a “transgender opera” in Colombia

\$32,000 for a “transgender comic book” in Peru

\$2 million for sex changes and “LGBT activism” in Guatemala

\$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt

Hundreds of thousands of dollars for a non-profit linked to designated terrorist organizations — even AFTER an inspector general launched an investigation. Millions to EcoHealth Alliance — which was involved in research at the Wuhan lab. “Hundreds of thousands of meals that went to al Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria” .Funding to print “personalized” contraceptives birth control devices in developing countries. Hundreds of millions of dollars to fund “irrigation canals, farming equipment, and even fertilizer used to support the unprecedented poppy cultivation and heroin production in

Afghanistan,” benefiting the Taliban. The list literally goes on and on — and it has all been happening for decades. Under President Trump, the waste, fraud, and abuse ENDS NOW.

DOGE announces results from its first 80 hours of work and it's way behind schedule

BPR Insider

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-doge-early-spending-dei-contracts-2025-1>
(Epoch Times)

https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/doge-has-access-to-treasurys-payments-system-what-to-know-5804496?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

The Department of Government Efficiency said it cancelled \$420 million in contracts in 80 hours. If true, that puts DOGE on track to cut about \$67 billion per year — 3% of Musk's original goal.

Elon Musk, who is leading the group, has a known love of the number 420. Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency announced Friday in a post on X that in 80 hours, it had cancelled approximately \$420 million worth of current or impending government contracts, as well as two leases.

According to Business Insider's calculations, that amounts to cancelling about \$126 million worth of contracts per day. If the group works at that pace all of the 530 days between January 20, 2025, and DOGE's target end date of July 4, 2026, it would cancel around \$67 billion in contracts each year. That would end up being about 3% of Musk's original goal of slashing \$2 trillion from the federal budget, or 7% of his pared-down goal of \$1 trillion.

Of course, DOGE's early activity is no guarantee of what's to come, especially given how quickly things are changing at the group and how much remains unknown about its organization. On his first day back in office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order bringing DOGE inside the White House and laying out how its employees will embed in federal agencies. The group still can't change the federal budget without Congress. In its post on Friday, DOGE says most of the focus has been on DEI contracts and empty buildings. There are no further details on X or DOGE's website about the cancellations, and there's no way currently to verify the information. Musk, Trump, a spokesperson for DOGE, and the General Services Administration, which leases most government buildings, did not immediately respond to BI's request for comment.

DOGE's early cost-cutting is notable in its specifics, too: Musk has a demonstrated affection for the number 420, a reference to marijuana.

In 2018, he proposed taking Tesla private at \$420 per share, an idea that eventually landed him in legal hot water with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Later that year, he smoked a joint on camera with Joe Rogan and changed his then-Twitter bio to "420." On April 20, 2023 — or 4/20, the unofficial holiday of weed — his company SpaceX launched a rocket. And in October of that year, Musk bought Twitter at \$54.20 a share (take a look at last three numbers of that price).

Weed references aside, DOGE's post on X echoes its initial mission as a cost-cutting and deregulatory group, despite recent changes to its stated goals. In his executive order, Trump redefined DOGE's purpose as updating the government's software and IT systems, though the group hasn't stopped taking aim at what it sees as wasteful spending.

The Treasury Department has informed Congress that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has access to the government's payment system, but in "read-only" form. The clarification comes after speculation and concern that giving Elon Musk and DOGE access to the system could pose a cybersecurity risk. Link:

<https://lists.theepochtimes.com/links/TQMX5xSRY/usJwMxGAB/UGkk0pnrQX/zV6vbbz15m>

Trump Orders Schools, Colleges to End DEI or Lose Federal Funding - *The Epoch Times* - By Aaron Gifford

The measure would affect a range of programs, from special education to university research.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/trump-orders-schools-colleges-to-end-dei-or-lose-federal-funding-5797183?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

President Donald Trump's latest executive action will cut off federal funding to any learning institutions that mandate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) provisions or hire contractors that engage in such practices.

According to the Jan. 21 order, titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," any schools that receive federal money, including funds for special education programs and low-income student populations in K-12 schools or federal student loan programs (Pell grants) in colleges and universities, will be issued guidance for complying with this mandate within 120 days.

The Attorney General, U.S. Department of Education, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have also been assigned to identify the "most egregious and discriminatory practitioners in each sector of concern."

The Department of Education is asked to identify up to nine potential civil compliance investigations pertaining to colleges and universities with endowments exceeding \$1 billion. That list could include all Ivy League institutions, several elite private schools, and large research-based public universities across the country.

"Illegal DEI and DEIA policies not only violate the text and spirit of our longstanding Federal civil-rights laws, they also undermine our national unity, as they deny, discredit,

and undermine the traditional American values of hard work, excellence, and individual achievement in favor of an unlawful, corrosive, and pernicious identity-based spoils system,” the order stated. “Hardworking Americans who deserve a shot at the American Dream should not be stigmatized, demeaned, or shut out of opportunities because of their race or sex.”

The measure would also impact the Council of Higher Education Accreditation and the many college and university credentialing agencies it oversees. Under the 1965 Higher Education Act, college majors are required to be accredited in order to get federal money for research and other functions.

Immediately after the executive order was issued, Nicki Neily, founder and president of Parents Defending Education, issued a statement saying that ending DEI will prepare the next generation for success.

“President Trump’s executive orders eliminating DEI programs in education mark a crucial step toward restoring schools’ focus on American exceptionalism and academic achievement. For too long, DEI has prioritized divisive identity politics over education, even as reading and math scores hit record lows,” Neily said.

“This move ensures much-needed clarity and accountability, empowering schools to prioritize student success without imposing radical ideologies. Parents have long voiced concerns about DEI’s lack of transparency and its erosion of merit. These orders honor parental rights, foster critical thinking, and shield students from indoctrination.”

Critics, including the National Education Association, said the order leaves certain students behind.

“Most Americans believe that every student deserves opportunity, resources, and support to reach their full potential no matter where they live, the color of their skin, or how much their family earns,” said Becky Pringle, president of the public school teachers’ union, in a statement on Jan. 20, ahead of Trump’s executive order. “Donald Trump’s actions today do nothing to help students learn and grow, nothing to support parents, and nothing to assist educators in inspiring their students to learn and helping them succeed.”

Neal McCluskey, director of the Cato Institute Center for Education Freedom in Washington, previously told The Epoch Times that smaller federally funded programs that fund accelerated learning loss recovery in core subjects, nutrition, career and technical education, and various other areas related to academics or student wellness could be defunded if the schools or the contractors hired by schools support DEI initiatives.

Trump Administration Directs All Federal DEI Employees Be Put on Leave – *The Epoch Times* – NTD News - Kevin Stocklin contributed



https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/trump-administration-directs-all-federal-dei-employees-be-put-on-leave-5796747?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

The memo directs agencies to place DEI employees on paid leave by 5 p.m. on Jan. 22.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a memo on Jan. 21 instructing that all federal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) employees must be put on paid leave as agencies work to dismantle DEI initiatives.

The OPM is an independent agency of the federal government that manages the federal civil service.

The memo directs agencies to place DEI employees on paid leave by 5 p.m. on Jan. 22 and to remove all websites and social media accounts associated with DEI initiatives by the same time.

Shortly after his inauguration, President Donald Trump issued an executive order aimed at eliminating DEI-focused policies and programs within the federal government.

According to the memo, federal agencies are required to cancel all DEI-related training programs and terminate any contractors involved in the initiatives.

Agencies were required to compile a list of federal DEI offices and staff working in those offices as of Nov. 5, 2024, and to submit a plan for executing a “reduction-in-force action” against those workers to the OPM by Jan. 31.

The memo also asks for a list of any contract or position descriptions that were changed after the Nov. 5 election “to obscure their connection” to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) programs. This list must be submitted no later than Jan. 31.

Trump’s executive order criticized the former Biden administration for forcing “illegal and immoral discrimination programs” into virtually “all aspects” of the federal government through DEI initiatives.

It stated that “nearly every federal agency and entity submitted Equity Action Plans to detail the ways that they have furthered DEIs [sic] infiltration of the federal government” following former president Joe Biden’s previous directive.

“The public release of these plans demonstrated immense public waste and shameful discrimination. That ends today,” the order stated.

Trump’s order directs the director of the Office of Management and Budget, the attorney general, and the director of the OPM to terminate “all discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and ‘diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility’ (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government, under whatever name they appear.”

The order mandates that federal agencies terminate all offices and positions related to environmental justice, as well as any equity-focused action plans, grants, and contracts within 60 days of the order’s issuance.

It also requires agencies to compile a list of grantees that received federal funding to implement DEI and environmental justice programs since Jan. 20, 2021, and federal contractors who have provided DEI training to their employees.

During his inauguration on Jan. 20, Trump said that he aims to “end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life.” “We will forge a society that is colorblind and merit-based,” Trump said in his address. “As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female.”

Among Trump’s presidential executive orders signed on inauguration day was a broad rescission of 78 of Biden’s executive orders, many of which set out the former administration’s DEI agenda.

These included, among others, Biden’s Executive Order 14035, “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce”; Executive Order 14091, “Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”; Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”; and several of Biden’s orders for “Advancing Educational Equity” regarding various racial groups.

In addition to revoking Biden’s orders, the Trump administration in its second term will likely also bring stronger enforcement of U.S. civil rights laws for both public and private employees. The U.S. Department of Labor, which regulates private companies on issues of discrimination, states that “the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.”

Economic terrorism? Sharpton vows black boycott of companies that dump DEI January 22, 2025 | Vivek Saxena |

<https://www.bizpacreview.com/2025/01/22/economic-terrorism-sharpton-vows-black-boycott-of-companies-that-dump-dei-1517707/>

Notorious race hustler Al Sharpton has threatened to launch a boycott against the numerous companies that have eliminated their backward, regressive diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Sharpton issued the threat while speaking at the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C., on Monday according to Fox News.

He announced that his organization, the National Action Network, will first conduct a study on companies dropping their DEI initiatives. Then once the study is complete, the boycotting will begin.

“In 90 days, we are going to announce the two companies that we’re going after, and we’re going to ask everybody in this country — black, white, brown, gay, straight woman, trans — don’t buy where you are not respected,” he said.

Sharpton went on to argue why he believes DEI initiatives are important.

“Why do we have DEI?” he began. “We have DEI because you denied us diversity, you denied us equity, you denied us inclusion. DEI was a remedy to the racial institutionalized bigotry practice in academia and in these corporations. Now, if you want to put us back in the back of the bus, we going to do the Dr. King-Rosa Parks on you.”

“You must have forgot who we are. We are the ones that you took everything and we still here,” he added.

The problem with DEI is that one, there is no more “institutionalized bigotry” in the year 2025 — except for the bigotry produced by DEI itself.

For example, DEI goes hand in hand with affirmative action, a policy that calls for purposefully discriminating against Asians and whites to artificially prop black people up above everybody else.

Critics say DEI is therefore nothing more than a new form of racism and discrimination that specifically benefits black race hustlers like Sharpton.

The good news is that Fox News’ Jesse Watters doesn’t expect Sharpton to get very far with his planned boycotts of some of the top companies in America, including Walmart, McDonald’s, and Ford.

“While the whole country’s coming together around Trump, instead of embracing the moment, Rev. Al wants black people to drop out of the economy,” Watters said. “Does Al want black people to delete Instagram? Does he want them to stop Googling things, quit going to McDonalds?”

“Because all those companies dropped DEI. Sharpton couldn’t even get black Americans to put Kamala in the White House. Do you think he’s going to get them to stop going to Micky Dees?” he added.

Meanwhile, as Sharpton has been busy complaining about corporations dropping their DEI initiatives, President Donald Trump has been tearing apart the federal government’s own “diversity” initiatives.

It’s not yet clear how Sharpton feels about this move, though the assumption is he’s not at all happy about it.

Meanwhile, the public has been responding to his DEI threat by blasting him for wanting to keep racism/discrimination alive instead of embracing the colorblind meritocracy that was sought by the late Martin Luther King, Jr.

Trump Signs Laken Riley Act Into Law

By Arjun Singh - January 29, 2025 Excerpt



https://www.ntd.com/trump-signs-laken-riley-act-into-law-1043951.html?utm_source=ref_share&utm_campaign=email_share

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump on Jan. 29 signed into law the Laken Riley Act, the first piece of legislation to receive his assent during his second term.

The act is named after the late Laken Hope Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student at Augusta University in Athens, Georgia. Riley was murdered on Feb. 22, 2024, by José Antonio Ibarra, a Venezuelan national who entered the United States illegally in 2022.

Riley's mother, Allyson Phillips, thanked Trump and the lawmakers who sponsored the bill in emotional remarks at the White House signing ceremony.

The signing of the law, Trump said, "brings us one step closer to eradicating the scourge of migrant crime in our communities once and for all."

Ibarra was convicted on four counts of murder on Nov. 20, 2024, in the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court. Ibarra was awaiting immigration proceedings at the time of his attack on Riley.

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesperson previously told The Epoch Times that Ibarra came in contact with the agency in September 2022 after crossing the border near El Paso, Texas. After his arrest, he was released for further immigration proceedings.

Almost a year later, in August 2023, Ibarra was arrested again, in New York City, and charged with "acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17" and a license violation. He was released before immigration officials could file a detention order or initiate deportation.

The act requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to detain any foreign national who is charged with the crimes of "burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person," even if that person has been granted bail from state detention by a court.

Trump campaigned in the 2024 presidential election on the promise of launching the "largest deportation operation in American history" to remove all illegal immigrants from the United States. To compel enforcement of the Laken Riley Act, the statute empowers state attorneys general to sue the federal government if foreign nationals are not detained and cause harm to their states or the states' residents.

Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) cosponsored the bill in the Senate.

"Laken Riley's story is a tragic reminder of what's at stake when our systems fail to protect people. No family should have to endure the pain of losing a loved one to preventable violence," Fetterman said in a Jan. 7 statement. "Immigration is what makes our country

great. I support giving authorities the tools to prevent tragedies like this one while we work on comprehensive solutions to our broken system.”

The legislation has been widely opposed by immigration activist groups and Democrats in Congress. Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, told The Epoch Times that the law will enable the detention of non-violent foreign nationals and beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

“My belief is that [DACA] individuals could get swept up and deported as a result of this bill,” Aguilar said. (Savannah Hulsey Pointer contributed to this report.)

Pentagon strips Gen Mark Milley of US security detail and clearance - By Ana Faguy - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp3jd798kpzo>

Gen Milley previously served as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff during Trump's first term, but later criticized his former boss, and was quoted calling him a "fascist".

Trump previously accused Gen Milley of treason for phone calls he held with his Chinese counterpart during the final weeks of his first Trump presidency, including in the wake of a riot at the US Capitol building by Trump's supporters in 2021. Milley reportedly used one of the calls to reassure China that the US would not launch a nuclear strike. On social media the president described those calls as "an act so egregious that, in times gone by, the punishment would have been DEATH!".

Gen Milley, however, testified the calls were coordinated with other defense secretaries.

It was in Bob Woodward's book War, published last year, that Gen Milley was quoted calling Trump "fascist to the core" and "the most dangerous person to this country".

And in 2023, when giving his final speech as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen Milley said the military did not take an oath to a "wannabe dictator".

The comment was seen by many as a reference to Trump, the man who nominated him for the job in the first place.

Referring to Gen Milley's alleged undercutting of Trump, the defence department's new chief of staff said on Wednesday: "Undermining the chain of command is corrosive to our national security.

"And restoring accountability is a priority for the Defense Department under President Trump's leadership."

Ahead of Trump's return to the White House last week, outgoing President Joe Biden issued Gen Milley - and a handful of others, including Fauci - a pre-emptive pardon in case they should face retribution from Trump.

Biden's statement said the pardons should "not be mistaken as an acknowledgment" that any of those covered "engaged in any wrongdoing".

Gen Milley thanked Biden for the move and said he did not want to spend the rest of his life "fighting those who unjustly might seek retribution for perceived slights".

"I do not want to put my family, my friends, and those with whom I served through the resulting distraction, expense, and anxiety," he said.

The news that Gen Milley was being stripped of his security detail and security clearance was confirmed in a statement to the BBC's US partner, CBS News.

The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General has also been told to "conduct an inquiry into the facts and circumstances surrounding Gen Milley's conduct so that the Secretary may determine whether it is appropriate to reopen his military grade review determination", the statement said.

Trump's new administration has also revoked security protections for his former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, his former National Security Adviser John Bolton and his former Iran envoy Brian Hook.

In the hours after Trump's second inauguration, Trump's officials also removed from the Pentagon a portrait depicting Gen Milley's as chair of the joint chiefs of staff.

Government Officials Put on Leave After Allegedly Trying to Circumvent Trump's Orders

The Epoch Times - By Zachary Stieber - 1/28/2025-

https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/government-officials-put-on-leave-after-allegedly-trying-to-circumvent-trumps-orders-5799936?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

Officials who work at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have been placed on leave because they allegedly tried to find a way around executive orders from President Donald Trump, according to a memorandum sent to agency staffers on Jan. 27.

New leadership at USAID identified several actions in the agency that "appeared to be designed to circumvent the President's Executive Orders and the mandate from the American people," USAID's acting administrator, Jason Gray, said in the memo.

"As a result, we have placed a number of USAID employees on administrative leave with full pay and benefits until further notice while we complete our analysis of these actions," he said.

USAID did not respond to a request for more information. It was not clear how many USAID officials have been placed on leave.

“People are calling it the Monday afternoon massacre,” said Francisco Bencosme, who was USAID’s China policy lead until earlier this month. “This decision undermines our national security and emboldens our adversaries. ... Instead of focusing on China, North Korea, or Russia, the Trump Administration is going after public servants who have served multiple administrations—including the first Trump administration.”

Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.), the ranking Democrat member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement that the move was harmful and had no benefit. He described the officials removed as apolitical.

USAID is an independent federal agency that leads U.S. efforts on international development and humanitarian assistance to other countries. Examples of the agency’s work include providing resources to foreign farmers and helping countries establish and improve schools.

Republicans have been critical of some USAID priorities, including providing funds to Afghanistan to distribute contraceptives.

“USAID needs to be dismantled,” Rep. Mike Collins (R-Ga.) wrote on social media platform X on Jan. 27.

Trump has signed a flurry of executive orders since taking office. Some pertain to USAID and the State Department, with which USAID works regularly.

One order suspended U.S. foreign aid for 90 days. The White House said the suspension was because the U.S. government’s foreign policy is “not aligned with American interests and in many cases antithetical to American values.”

A spokesperson for the State Department said on Jan. 26 that Secretary of State Marco Rubio, consistent with the order, has paused all foreign assistance funded by or through the State Department and the USAID.

“He is initiating a review of all foreign assistance programs to ensure they are efficient and consistent with U.S. foreign policy under the America First agenda,” spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.

A second memo, sent over the weekend, informed USAID staff that the pause on foreign aid spending meant “a complete halt,” with exceptions for emergency humanitarian food assistance and officials returning to their duty stations.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on Jan. 27 called for the U.S. government to consider additional exemptions “to ensure the continued delivery of critical development and humanitarian activities for the most vulnerable communities around the world, whose lives and livelihoods depend on this support.”

Reuters contributed to this report.

Trump Admin Outlines Criteria for Reclassifying Federal Workers for Easier Termination - The Epoch Times By Tom Ozimek - 1/27/2025

Link: https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/trump-admin-outlines-criteria-for-reclassifying-federal-workers-for-easier-termination-5799530?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued detailed guidance for federal agencies on implementing one of President Donald Trump's executive orders that the president says is intended to make it easier to fire members of the career federal workforce who are performing poorly.

A memo released on Jan. 27 by OPM acting Director Charles Ezell instructs federal agencies to identify positions qualifying for reclassification as Schedule Policy/Career, a new category established by Trump's Jan. 20 order. Once reclassified, employees in these roles will no longer be protected by the competitive hiring process or traditional job security measures, making it easier to dismiss or replace them.

Ezell's memorandum outlines criteria for determining which positions qualify for reclassification. These include positions with significant involvement in policy development or advocacy, such as drafting regulations, supervising attorneys, managing collective bargaining efforts, or providing access to confidential policy discussions that influence executive decisions.

The memo directs all federal agencies to submit preliminary recommendations for employee reclassification to OPM within 90 days, paving the way for final approval by the president to formalize the changes.

"Agency heads will then petition OPM to recommend that the President place those positions in Schedule Policy/Career," Ezell writes in the memo, adding that "a new executive order will subsequently effectuate transfers" of employees into the newly created schedule, allowing for their streamlined dismissal.

Ezell's memo implements Trump's executive order—"Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce"—which essentially revives the "Schedule F" order he signed at the end of his first term. The "Schedule F" order went largely unimplemented and was overturned by President Joe Biden after he took office.

Much like the Schedule F order, Trump's latest action allows agency heads to reclassify certain policy-making positions into a new schedule called Schedule Policy/Career.

Claiming that accountability for civil servants is "sorely lacking," Trump's Jan. 20 order notes that just 41 percent of civil service supervisors feel confident in removing employees for misconduct, while barely 26 percent are confident in addressing poor performance. The order also states that there have been numerous cases of career federal employees' "resisting and undermining" the policies of executive leadership, with the executive action aiming to "restore accountability."

“Employees in or applicants for Schedule Policy/Career positions are not required to personally or politically support the current President or the policies of the current administration,” Trump’s executive order states. “They are required to faithfully implement administration policies to the best of their ability, consistent with their constitutional oath and the vesting of executive authority solely in the President. Failure to do so is grounds for dismissal.”

Ezell’s memorandum highlights that reclassified positions will become at-will roles, meaning employees can be removed without the procedural protections afforded to most civil service positions.

“Such career positions will be rescheduled into Schedule Policy/Career and thereby exempted from the adverse action procedures set forth in chapter 75 of title 5 of the United States Code,” the memo states.

Trump’s executive order reclassifying numerous federal employees as political appointees has been challenged in court. On Jan. 21, the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) filed a lawsuit challenging the order, arguing that it undermines long-standing civil service protections and poses a major threat to the merit-based principles that have governed federal employment for more than a century.

“The radical change that this Executive Order will effect has been widely recognized,” NTEU attorneys wrote in the complaint. “The October 2020 Schedule F Order that was revived through this Executive Order was described as a stunning attempt to politicize the civil service and undermine more than a century of laws aimed at preventing corruption and cronyism in the federal government.”

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

Democrats in Congress have also come out in opposition to Trump’s actions on reviving Schedule F.

Trump says he is revoking Biden's security clearance

BBC News – By Alys Davies – Feb. 7, 2025

<https://bbc.com/news/articles/cn57p5r99xyo>

US President Donald Trump has said he is revoking Joe Biden's security clearance and access to daily intelligence briefings, after his predecessor did the same to him four years ago.

"There is no need for Joe Biden to continue receiving access to classified information," Trump wrote in a post on his Truth Social platform.

"JOE, YOU'RE FIRED," the Republican added in a reference to his catchphrase on the reality TV show, The Apprentice.

Trump has already revoked the security clearance of more than four dozen former intelligence officials whom he accused of meddling in the 2020 election in Biden's favour.

Trump posted on Friday evening that Biden "set this precedent in 2021, when he instructed the Intelligence Community (IC) to stop the 45th President of the United States (ME!) from accessing details on National Security, a courtesy provided to former Presidents".

He said Biden "could not be trusted with sensitive information", citing a justice department inquiry into the Democrat's storage of classified files, which concluded that while there was no need to press criminal charges, Biden had a poor memory.

The investigation said Biden was unable to recall significant life events such as the year his son, Beau, died and when he served as vice-president to Barack Obama. Biden rejected that characterisation at the time.

The former president, who has taken some time away from the limelight since leaving his post last month, did not immediately respond to Trump's move on Friday.

The BBC contacted Biden's talent agency, which recently signed him, but no response was immediately forthcoming.

In 2021, Biden stopped Trump from receiving classified intelligence briefings, the first time an ex-president had ever been denied such information, which is traditionally given as a courtesy.

He justified the move by saying Trump could not be trusted because of his "erratic behavior", even before the 2021 US Capitol riot, which Democrats accused Trump of inciting in the last days of his first term.

"What value is giving him an intelligence briefing?" Biden said at the time. "What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?"

In 2022, federal agents discovered classified files in Trump's Florida home and he was charged with willfully retaining defense information. He pleaded not guilty, and the case was ultimately dropped once he was re-elected.

Since returning to office, Trump has taken steps to revoke the security clearances and protections of other top officials linked to the Biden administration.

Among those whose security clearance and detail has been retracted is former top US military commander Mark Milley, a vocal critic of Trump.

The new Defense Secretary, Pete Hegseth, has also ordered Milley's "conduct" to be investigated, and his military grade to be reviewed.

Trump has also revoked the security detail of former chief medical adviser to the president, Anthony Fauci, who led the US response to Covid-19.

Trump said at the time the decision was "very standard" and that it was not possible for everyone to have security protection for the rest of their life because they worked for the government.

He ended security protection for his own former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Secret Service protection for his former National Security Adviser, John Bolton, last month.

The president has also ordered that the security clearance of dozens of former intelligence officials, including two ex-CIA directors, be revoked.

They signed a letter in 2020 suggesting that reports about a laptop owned by Joe Biden's son, Hunter, were a Russian hoax.

But the computer, whose trove of data contained evidence of drug abuse, prostitution and foreign business deals, was real.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said he is uniquely positioned to end America's "chronic disease epidemic"



- The Epoch Times By —Lawrence Wilson

<https://lists.theepochtimes.com/archive/O4Q4KDDMv/usJwMxGAB/UGkk0pnrQX>

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said he is uniquely positioned to end America's "chronic disease epidemic" and pledged to bring "radical transparency" to the Department of Health and Human Services if confirmed as secretary.

The remarks came at a confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance yesterday. Republicans mostly welcomed President Donald Trump's nominee, though he is a former Democrat and longtime supporter of abortion access as an advocate for bodily autonomy.

Democrats portrayed Kennedy as an unscrupulous profiteer who has changed his position on vaccines and abortion in order to gain political power. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) led the Democrats' attack. "Mr. Kennedy has embraced conspiracy theories, quacks, charlatans, especially when it comes to the safety and efficacy of vaccines," Wyden said. "It has been lucrative for him, put him on the verge of immense power." Democrats didn't buy Kennedy's statement that he supports vaccines but merely wants to ensure their safety and effectiveness. Several questioned that in light of some previous statements. "So are you lying to Congress today when you say you are pro-vaccine? Or did you lie on all those podcasts?" Wyden said.

On abortion, Kennedy affirmed that he would follow the administration's policies. "I agree with President Trump that every abortion is a tragedy. I agree with him that we cannot be a moral nation if we have 1.2 million abortions a year. I agree with him that the states should control abortion," Kennedy said. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)

suggested that he would be a “rubber stamp” for Trump’s agenda. Kennedy said he was nominated to make America healthy again. “All of the other disputes we have about who’s paying and whether it’s insurance companies, whether it’s providers, whether it’s HMOs, whether it’s patients or families—all of those are moving deck chairs around on the Titanic. Our ship is sinking,” Kennedy said.

Medicaid spending has skyrocketed in recent years, Kennedy noted, “and no other nation in the world has what we have here. We have the highest chronic disease burden of any country in the world.”

Kennedy will also appear before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions at.



The Epoch Times by Stacey Robinson (Excerpt)

https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/how-usaid-and-its-50-billion-budget-became-a-target-for-reform-5803984?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=digitalsub&fbclid=IwY2xjawliC5xleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHbHOvtY5yUhm9gjqK5cUqjbFpqCbvHQ20MGNCwZLIU8ZtD okJjBIV-uow aem VAqk83wFWrka0h9r5milPA

Now the U.S. Agency for International Aid is centerstage in a drama unfolding at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Donald Trump wants USAID and all federal agencies to be accountable to the president’s agenda. Democrats think he’s abusing executive power and vow to fight it.

The agency has had successes in the projection of American influence through things like PEPFAR, a program to combat HIV/AIDS credited with saving tens of millions of lives.

Critics call it a rogue agency that wastes millions of taxpayer dollars and refuses to be accountable to Congress or the president.

The White House listed some questionable projects funded by USAID, including \$1.5 million to “advance diversity equity and inclusion in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities,” \$47,000 for a “transgender opera” in Colombia, and \$2.5 million for electric vehicles in Vietnam.

The Middle East Forum reported that it handed \$122 million to groups aligned with designated terrorist organizations including Hamas. And it won’t open its books to Congress.

Ernst told The Epoch Times, “The agency has stonewalled me and used every trick in the book to hide what they are doing from the American people.”

That included falsely claiming some documents were classified to delay having staffers view them and that providing some spending information to Congress would violate federal law.

“They have basically evolved into an agency that believes that they’re not even a U.S. Government agency, that ... they’re a global charity,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Feb. 3.

Trump indicated that the agency would likely be closed and its functions permanently transferred to the State Department.

“This is what the beginning of dictatorship looks like, when you got the Constitution and you install yourself as the sole power.” Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) said at a press conference.

“Trying to shut down the agency for International Development by executive order is plain illegal,” Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) said.

But nothing in the law dictates how the agency must be structured, according to the Congressional Research Service, so the president can make organizational changes “including shifting certain functions from USAID to state.”

“This is not about getting rid of foreign aid,” Rubio said, adding that no decision had yet been made on what activities might be better done through the State Department and which might remain under a reformed USAID.

A primary objective of the restructuring is to make foreign aid projects align with U.S. foreign policy.

“We’re going to be the most generous nation on Earth in a way that makes sense, that’s in our national interest,” Rubio said.

The Treasury Department has informed Congress that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has access to the government’s payment system, but in “read-only” form. The clarification comes after speculation and concern that giving Elon Musk and DOGE access to the system could pose a cybersecurity risk.

TRUMP’S PLANS FOR GITMO – The Epoch Times - By Jacob Burg Excerpt)

https://www.theepochtimes.com/epochtv/ntd-good-morning-full-broadcast-feb-6-post-5805333?utm_campaign=socialshare_email&utm_source=email

After slightly more than a week into the second Trump administration we saw a flurry of activity from the White House, including multiple executive orders and a rescission of a memo ordering agencies to suspend federal aid until further review.

The freeze on federal loans, grants, and other financial assistance triggered widespread backlash on Tuesday, including a lawsuit that led to an injunction from a federal judge.

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a new memo rescinding the original, but it did not halt the freeze on aid from all federal agencies.

“The Executive Orders issued by the president on funding reviews remain in full force and effect and will be rigorously implemented by all agencies and departments.

There was also a group of executive actions signed by President Trump including a memorandum to prepare **Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba** to house illegal immigrants and an executive order to instruct the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to begin preparing the 30,000-person migrant facility at Guantanamo Bay,” Trump said. Newly sworn-in Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters that the White House is working on utilizing the resources currently available at Guantanamo Bay.

ICE will be running these centers, according to Trump’s border czar Tom Homan. “There’s already a migrant center there. It’s been there for decades. So we’re just going to expand upon the existing migrant center,” Homan said.

Another executive order is intended to combat the rise of anti-Semitism in the nation, especially on college campuses.

The order would allow the federal government to deport students on U.S. visas that express support for the terrorist group Hamas, which was behind the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre of Israeli civilians.

The Trump administration said that some students have been “celebrating Hamas’ mass rape, kidnapping, and murder.”

Trump also signed two executive orders affecting K–12 schools, with one threatening to withhold federal funding from any schools that teach critical race theory (CRT) or “gender ideology.”

The other education order seeks to establish universal school choice in the United States, giving states federal money to cover private school tuition or for public schools that students choose to attend outside their district-based assigned school.

In many jurisdictions, students are automatically assigned to specific public schools based on their neighborhood. “Every child deserves the best education available, regardless of their zip code,” Trump said in a statement. “However, for generations, our government-assigned education system has failed millions of parents, students, and teachers.” Trump added that his order would “rectify that wrong by opening up opportunities for students to attend the school that best fits their needs.”



SPECIAL EDITION

By Tyler O'Neil

Most DC Bureaucrats Who Voted for Harris Say They'll Refuse a Lawful Trump Order. Rand Paul Won't Stand for It.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/01/29/fired-cause-rand-paul-has-choice-words-about-bureaucrats-who-refuse-lawful-trump-order/>

A recent Napolitan Institute poll found that 64% of Washington, D.C.-based federal bureaucrats who voted for Kamala Harris for president said they would not follow a lawful order from President Donald Trump if they considered it bad policy.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., won't stand for it.

"The American people spoke when they voted President Trump into office," Paul told The Daily Signal in a statement on the poll. "Any bureaucrat who does not follow the law because they consider it bad policy should be fired for cause—immediately."

The poll, which RMG Research conducted on behalf of the Napolitan Institute and released earlier this month, revealed that 42% of what the survey characterizes as "federal government managers"—federal employees who live in the National Capital Region around Washington and earn at least \$75,000 annually—plan to politically oppose the new administration.

Nearly two-thirds of those federal government managers who voted for Harris said they would ignore a lawful order from Trump if they regarded it to be bad policy. Only 17% of the Harris voters in the federal bureaucracy surveyed said they would follow Trump's order.

Paul joined other Republican senators in condemning this deep state effort against Trump.

"Bureaucracy is the real threat to democracy," Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, previously told The Daily Signal. Ernst leads the Senate DOGE Caucus, an effort to help the Department of Government Efficiency to cut federal waste and abuse. While the original DOGE was a nongovernmental panel led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, Trump recently announced he would be giving it a role inside the government, replacing the U.S. Digital Service.

Conservatives often warn that insulating federal bureaucrats from Congress and the president weakens the voters' ability to have a say in their government.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, noted other efforts bureaucrats are taking to tie the new president's hands.

"Entrenched bureaucrats are already subverting President Trump's agenda and working to box in the incoming administration and Republican Congress, including and especially on foreign policy," Cruz previously told The Daily Signal. "President Trump and administration officials are going to have to focus immediately on ensuring such bureaucrats are fired."

Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., condemned the deep state effort as "shameful" and endorsed some policies to combat it.

"This polling data is shameful—civil servants must serve our nation, not their political party," she told The Daily Signal. "The administrative state is a huge problem that demands serious reforms."

The poll also found that Republicans who work in Washington federal offices are more likely to support Trump. Republican federal government managers proved more likely (74%) to say a bureaucrat should be fired for refusing a presidential order, while only 23% of Democratic managers agreed.

RMG Research surveyed 500 federal government managers between Dec. 9 and Dec. 23. The margin of error for this poll is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

What Trump's Trans Athlete Ban Means for Schools and States

Education Week - By Mark Walsh — February 11, 2025 (Excerpt)

Link: <https://www.edweek.org/>

When President Donald Trump last week signed an executive order meant to keep transgender athletes out of girls' and women's sports, representatives of groups that had sued the Biden administration over its broad interpretation of Title IX as protecting LGBTQ+ students were at the White House ceremony to cheer on Trump.

"We're thrilled with this," Kimberly S. Hermann, the executive director of the Southeastern Legal Foundation, said in an interview after the Feb. 5 ceremony in which Trump was flanked by young female athletes. "I have a 7-year-old who plays softball, and it was just great to be with her at the White House today."

Hermann's group, a conservative legal organization based in Roswell, Ga., had sued over the Biden administration's interpretation of Title IX that called for schools receiving federal funds to protect transgender students from discrimination. The broad regulation did not specifically cover participation by transgender athletes, which was the subject of a separate proposed rule that was never finalized.

Groups and state leaders aligned with Trump have welcomed several of the new president's executive orders on these topics, which besides the athletics action include an order declaring that the federal government will only recognize an individual's sex assigned at birth, and another that aims to combat "gender ideology" and inhibit student gender transitions.

"It's another step toward restoring biological reality to our schools and colleges," said Hermann.

Those who are supportive of transgender rights take a different view.

The athletics executive order was "another attempt to bully trans people, including children, and misuse the government to enforce sexist gender roles," Fatima Goss Graves, the president and CEO of the National Women's Law Center, a Washington-based group that promotes "gender justice," said in a statement. "President Trump's actions are cruel, blatant attempts to eviscerate safe, affirming, and equitable schools, a right that every student deserves, including transgender youth."

In contrast to the legal response to some of Trump's other early executive orders, there have been no lawsuits immediately filed against the athletics order.

The order says “it is the policy of the United States to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities” and “to oppose male competitive participation in women’s sports more broadly, as a matter of safety, fairness, dignity, and truth.”

The order contains specific directives for the Department of Justice, the U.S. secretary of education, and other agencies and officials to carry out those goals. Already, the U.S. Department of Education has announced investigations into two universities, the University of Pennsylvania and San Jose State University, and one state high school sports governing body, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, over potential Title IX violations.

But the biggest short-term impact of the order has been a sort of bully pulpit effect. A day after the president’s action, the National Collegiate Athletic Association changed its policies to limit competition in women’s sports to students assigned female at birth.

“President Trump’s order provides a clear, national standard,” NCAA President Charlie Baker said in a statement.

The Virginia High School League, which regulates interscholastic sports in that state, did the same thing this week, changing its policies to bar transgender girls from female sports.



End the Department of Education – By Larry P. Arnn - Feb. 14, 2025

Larry P. Arnn, Ph.D., is the twelfth president of Hillsdale College.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/opinion-restoring-america/3320171/end-the-department-of-education/>

The education of the young is among the highest duties of a free people. It is a task that belongs first to the student and his family, then to the school and to the community. Millions of Americans have long understood this truth. The founders provided generously for education, not by central decree, but by granting land — first one sixty-fourth, then one-eighth of the national territory — for states and townships to use to support local schools. They did not seek to control learning from a distant capital but entrusted it to those nearest the student. They knew that education, to be effective, must be free.

The modern Department of Education is a repudiation of this principle. Created by Congress in 1867, it was quickly demoted to an office of the Department of the Interior after public resistance. The modest bureau was to be a clearinghouse of information by which citizens and statesmen could learn from one another. Resurrected as a Cabinet department in 1979, the Education Department has grown into a sprawling bureaucracy that weakens rather than strengthens American learning. It governs by detailed and impenetrable rules, by mandates that burden schools, diminish teachers, and estrange education from the purposes it was meant to serve.

The scale of this failure is plain. The department oversees \$1.6 trillion in student loans — 92% of all student loan debt. Employing 4,400 bureaucrats to enforce ever-shifting social policies, it issues thousands of regulations that entangle every level of schooling. Among the 23 million civilian government employees in America, 11 million work in public education — yet fewer than half of them, only 4.7 million, are teachers or their assistants. The rest are administrators and regulators, consuming more than half the system's resources while standing apart from the classroom. The system is not designed for learning but control.

American students, once the best in the world, now lag their international peers. Teachers, previously symbols and conveyors of wisdom in every community, become compliance officers. Universities, grown dependent on federal aid, serve bureaucratic imperatives rather than their students. The Department of Education has not elevated but corrupted learning.

The Department of Education should be abolished. Its destruction is long overdue. Its powers and resources must be returned to the students themselves and to those who know and love them: parents, teachers, and schools. If schools are responsive to parents and students instead of distant bureaucrats, their natural and paramount interest in excellence will assert itself. The money that funds education must be placed in the hands of those who learn and teach, rather than those who regulate.

Twenty-five years ago, I wrote that government cannot make us learned any more than it can make us courageous or just. We want to be these things by nature, and if we are to become so we must strive. Give us a chance, and we will do it. Subject us to constant intrusion from above, and we will be impeded. Nowhere is our entitlement to freedom clearer than in the way we learn.

I applaud the Trump administration and its efforts to return to the people those things that are properly theirs. Education, I believe, is among the most important of them.

The federal experiment in education has failed. It is time for an act of restoration.

BPR Funnies

