

## **Timeline of Administration Actions: Impacting Medical and Public Health Research**

### **January 20, 2025**

- **Withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO):**
  - President Trump signed [Executive Order 14155](#), directing the withdrawal of the United States from the WHO.

### **January 20 – 24, 2025**

- **Executive Orders Targeting Federal Spending & Policy Shifts**
  - President Trump issues a series of executive orders aimed at reducing federal spending, increasing oversight of federal programs, and meeting other presidential objectives. These seven EOs form the basis of the OMB funding pause:
    - (1) [Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (2) [Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (3) [Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (4) [Unleashing American Energy](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (5) [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (6) [Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
    - (7) [Enforcing the Hyde Amendment](#) (Jan. 24, 2025)

### **January 21, 2025**

- **Communications & Travel Pause**
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Acting Secretary Dorothy A. Fink, MD, issues a directive, [Immediate Pause on Issuing Documents and Public Communications](#), in effect through February 1.
  - No notices of study sections or advisory councils have been added to the federal register, prohibiting approval of new grants. *(as of Feb 27)*

- January 22, 2025: NIH issues an internal [travel pause email](#), restricting travel approvals.

### **January 27, 2025**

- **OMB Memo Directing Federal Funding Pauses**
  - [OMB Memo](#) - directing all federal agencies to pause spending on funding tied to the executive orders (*listed above*), leading to confusion about its scope and implementation. This pause was set to take effect on January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST and required agencies to submit detailed information to OMB by Feb. 10, 2025, on all projects or activities affected by the pause.

### **January 28, 2025:**

- **Legal Challenges to OMB Funding Pause**
  - **Morning:**
    - OMB releases a [52-page directive](#) requiring agencies to review financial assistance programs and pause obligations linked to impacted policies. Agencies are required to report planned disbursements through March 15, with responses due by February 7.
    - [OMB clarified](#) that the funding pause applies only to programs directly impacted by specific Executive Orders, excluding programs providing direct benefits to individuals such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, student loans, Pell Grants, and Head Start, and urges agencies to consult OMB for guidance on potential exceptions.
  - **Afternoon:**
    - A coalition of nonprofits and small businesses [files a lawsuit](#) in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia challenging the legality of the OMB's funding pause.
    - 23 Democratic state attorneys general file a [separate federal lawsuit](#) in Rhode Island, arguing the spending freeze violates federal law.
  - **4:45 PM EST:** U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan issues a temporary restraining order (TRO), minutes before the deadline, halting implementation of the funding freeze.

### **January 29, 2025**

- **OMB Memo Rescinded, But Confusion Continues**

- The OMB [rescinds](#) the original January 27 memorandum. However, the administration indicates that the review of federal financial assistance programs will continue, and agencies are advised to await further guidance.
- White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt [tweets](#) that agencies must still identify and pause funding subject to the executive orders, creating further confusion.
- U.S. District Judge John McConnell Jr. signals he is inclined to block the funding freeze permanently, citing ongoing harm despite the rescission. He instructs the 23 state attorneys general to draft a restraining order, with the Justice Department given 24 hours to respond.

### **January 29, 2025**

#### **□ Data Purges and Website Removals**

- OMB sent out a [Guidance Memo](#) to federal agencies outlining steps that agencies must take to comply with the President's Executive Order entitled [Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#) (Defending Women).
- Agencies removed datasets and web pages related to end all programs that promote or reflect gender ideology [HIV, LGBTQ+ issues, gender, climate change, and racial diversity](#).
- The [CDC was ordered to retract all scientific papers involving its researchers](#) from external journals to [remove language](#) not aligning with an executive order recognizing only two sexes.

### **January 31, 2025**

#### **□ Further Legal Challenges to Funding Pause**

- Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. [issued a temporary restraining order](#) blocking the Trump administration's efforts to freeze payments for grants and other programs. The order blocks any suspension of federal dollars to the 22 states that were party to the suit — as well as the District of Columbia.
- A [Notice of Court Order](#) was issued providing guidance on the implications of the above restraining order. The notice states in part: *“Federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB Memo, or on the basis of the President’s recently issued Executive Orders... **Agencies may exercise their own authority to pause awards or obligations, provided agencies do so purely based on their own discretion**—not as a result of the OMB Memo or the President’s Executive Orders—and provided the pause complies with all*

*notice and procedural requirements in the award, agreement, or other instrument relating to such a pause.”*

### **February 3, 2025**

- **Court Extends Injunction Against OMB Funding Freeze**
  - U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan extended a temporary [restraining order](#) against the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) plan to freeze federal loans, grants, and other financial assistance. The order will remain in effect while she decides whether to issue a longer preliminary injunction.

### **February 4, 2025**

- **Legal Challenges to Data Purges and Website Removals**
  - Doctors for America filed a [lawsuit](#) against OPM, CDC, FDA, and HHS, challenging the removal of health-related datasets and information from government websites.

### **February 7, 2025**

- **15% Cap on Indirect Cost Reimbursements**
  - The NIH [announces a policy change](#) to cap indirect cost rates at 15% for all grants, both new and existing, effective February 10, 2025.

### **February 10, 2025**

- **Legal Challenges to NIH Funding Cap**
  - A coalition of [22 state attorneys general](#) filed a [lawsuit](#) in federal court seeking to block the NIH's new policy.
  - [APLU](#), [AAU](#), [ACE](#), and research universities [file a separate lawsuit](#) in the District of Massachusetts, assigned to Judge Mary Page Kelley.
  - The Association of American Medical Colleges, with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, and Greater New York Hospital Association filed a [lawsuit](#) in the same court as the lawsuit filed by 22 State Attorneys General.
  - District Court Judge Angel Kelley of the U.S. District of Massachusetts issued a [temporary restraining order](#) late Monday, [blocking the Trump administration's cuts](#) to NIH research funding after 22 states filed a lawsuit, giving the administration until Friday to file an opposition and scheduling a Feb. 21 hearing, while also granting a [similar order](#) in response to a lawsuit

filed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that resulted in a [nationwide temporary restraining order](#).

- **Judge McConnell Upholds Halt on OMB Funding Freeze**
  - U.S. District Judge John McConnell Jr. in Rhode Island [upheld the temporary restraining order](#) (TRO) blocking the Trump administration's federal funding freeze, following an unsuccessful appeal to overturn the ruling. This decision ensures that the administration cannot proceed with pausing or freezing federal funds tied to recent executive orders while legal challenges continue.

### **February 11, 2025**

- **Federal Health Agencies Ordered to Restore Websites & Datasets**
  - A federal judge has ordered federal health agencies to restore websites and datasets removed since late January, granting a [temporary restraining order](#) in response to a lawsuit filed by Doctors for America (DFA).
- **Executive Order to Reduce the Size of the Federal Government**
  - President Trump issued an Executive Order entitled "[Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative](#)" to reduce the of the federal workforce.

### **February 13, 2025**

- **Executive Order establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission**
  - President Trump issued an Executive Order entitled "[Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission](#)" to focus on chronic illness and chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

### **February 21, 2025**

- **Court Hearing on NIH Facilities and Administrative Cost Cap**
  - U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley [extended that temporary block](#) until she rules on an injunction, a more permanent decision.

### **February 26, 2025**

- **Joint OMB and OPM Guidance Issued for Large-Scale Federal Workforce Reductions**

- OMB and OPM [issued guidance](#) directing federal agencies to submit Phase 1 workforce reduction and reorganization plans by March 13, 2025, and Phase 2 plans by April 14, 2025, as part of President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative, outlining personnel cuts, office consolidations, and budget reductions.

### **March 3, 2025**

#### **□ HHS Rescinds Richardson Waiver**

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [rescinded](#) the Richardson Waiver, a policy in place since the Nixon administration that allowed public input on rules related to public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts. Under the new policy, HHS will only seek public comment when explicitly required by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which does not mandate input on these types of rules.

### **March 5, 2025**

#### **□ Federal Judge Blocks Trump Administration's 15% Cap on NIH Indirect Costs**

- U.S. District Court Judge Angel Kelley issued a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking the Trump administration's attempt to cap National Institutes of Health (NIH) payments for research overhead at 15%. The ruling halts implementation of the policy while three lawsuits challenging the cap move forward. The injunction prevents billions in federal research dollars from being restricted while the court considers the long-term fate of the policy.