



## **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)
  
- **Federal Agencies Ordered to Review and Dismiss Probationary Employees**
  - Acting OPM Director Charles Ezell directed federal agencies to assess their workforces and consider firing employees in probationary periods. Agencies had until January 24 to identify these employees, who can be dismissed without Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) appeal rights.

## 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 14, 2025**

- **OPM Orders Termination of Probationary Employees**
  - On February 13, OPM instructed agency HR leaders to begin terminating non-mission-critical probationary employees, followed by a [February 14 email](#) setting a February 17 deadline for their separation.

## **February 19, 2025**

- **Lawsuit Filed Against OPM Over Mass Probationary Employee Firings**
  - Four labor organizations representing hundreds of thousands of federal employees [filed a lawsuit](#) against the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the Northern District of California, challenging the mass termination of probationary employees. The lawsuit seeks an injunction and legal relief. (*complaint [amended](#) February 23<sup>rd</sup>*)

## **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.

## **February 27, 2025**

- **Judge Temporarily Blocks Mass Firings of Probationary Employees**
  - Judge William Alsup ruled that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) lacked the legal authority to direct federal agencies to fire probationary employees. Due to jurisdictional limits, his ruling only applies to six agencies, including the National Park Service, National Science Foundation, Small Business Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Defense. However, Alsup

acknowledged he could not directly order other agencies to halt the terminations.

### **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 4, 2025**

#### **□ OPM Revises Memo on Probationary Employee Firings**

- Following a court ruling that OPM lacked the authority to direct agencies to fire probationary employees, OPM [revised its January 20 memo](#). The updated version states that agencies have the final authority over personnel decisions but does not instruct agencies to reinstate previously terminated employees or halt ongoing terminations.

### **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 prevents immediate cuts to NIH research overhead while three lawsuits—filed by states, universities, and medical research groups—proceed through federal court.

### **March 6, 2025**

#### **□ NIH Announce Plans to Centralize Peer Review**

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [announced plans](#) to centralize the peer review process for all grant applications, cooperative agreements, and research and development contracts within its Center for Scientific Review (CSR).

□ **States Challenge Mass Federal Layoffs**

- Attorneys general from 20 states, including D.C. and Maryland, sued federal agencies over mass layoffs of probationary employees, arguing they violated federal law by skipping required notice and procedures. [The lawsuit](#) seeks to halt further terminations, reinstate fired employees, and ensure future layoffs follow legal protocols.

**March 7, 2025**

□ **States Seek Emergency Halt to Federal Layoffs**

- Following their lawsuit against federal agencies, the 20-state coalition, including D.C. and Maryland, filed for a [temporary restraining order](#) to immediately stop further terminations while the case proceeds.

**March 13, 2025**

□ **White House Withdraws CDC Director Nomination**

- The White House unexpectedly withdrew President Trump's nomination of former Rep. Dave Weldon to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) just hours before his scheduled Senate confirmation hearing due to a lack of votes for his confirmation.

□ **Judge Alsup Grants Injunction on Probationary Employee Firings**

- Judge William Alsup issued a preliminary injunction requiring six federal agencies—Treasury, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Interior—to offer reinstatement to improperly terminated probationary employees. He also extended his previous order blocking further mass terminations by OPM while allowing agencies to proceed with reductions in force if they comply with existing laws.
- Agencies must provide by March 20 a list of all probationary employees fired, along with an explanation of what had been done to comply with the preliminary injunction.

□ **Judge Bedar Orders Reinstatement of Fired Federal Employees**

- U.S. District Judge James Bedar has ordered the Trump administration to reinstate thousands of probationary federal employees, ruling that 18 agencies unlawfully carried out mass firings without individual assessments. His 14-day [temporary restraining order](#) challenges the government's claim that employees were dismissed for performance reasons. The ruling expands on an earlier decision by Judge William Alsup, now requiring



additional agencies—including HHS, EPA, and USAID—to reinstate affected workers.

- Judge Bredar's temporary restraining order allows reinstatement through returning employees to work or placing them on leave, with broader relief to be considered at a March 26 preliminary injunction hearing.

#### □ **Trump Administration Appeals Reinstatement Orders**

- Following the rulings from Judges Alsup and Bredar ordering the reinstatement of fired probationary employees, the Trump administration has appealed both cases. Agencies have raised concerns over the administrative burden of rehiring employees and the potential disruption if the reinstatement orders are later overturned.

### **March 27, 2025**

#### □ **Trump Administration Announced Major Restructuring of HHS**

- HHS announced a major reorganization that reduces its workforce from 82,000 to 62,000 employees, including 10,000 voluntary departures and 10,000 terminations, with notable cuts at CDC, NIH, and FDA. The plan consolidates 28 divisions into 15, merges key agencies such as BARDA with ARPA-H and ASPE with AHRQ, and establishes a new entity—the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA).

### **April 2, 2025**

#### □ **Lawsuit Challenges NIH Grant Cancellations**

- The American Public Health Association and other plaintiffs [filed suit](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts against NIH and HHS. The complaint challenges the cancellation of over \$2.4 billion in research grants, alleging violations of the Administrative Procedure Act, HHS grant termination regulations, and the Fifth Amendment's due process clause. Plaintiffs argue the terminations were made without required justification or adherence to established procedures.

### **April 3, 2025**

#### □ **HHS Secretary Announces Reinstatements Following Workforce Reduction Errors**

- Secretary of HHS Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced that approximately 2,000 of the 10,000 recent HHS job cuts were made in error and that

reinstatements were always part of the plan. The cuts, implemented in coordination with DOGE, are part of a broader restructuring initiative announced March 27. HHS has not released formal guidance on the reinstatement process.

#### **April 4, 2025**

- **Federal Judge Issues Permanent Injunction Against NIH's 15% Indirect Cost Cap**
  - U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley issued a [permanent injunction](#) blocking the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) policy to cap indirect cost reimbursements at 15%. This decision prevents the implementation of the cap while legal challenges proceed.

#### **April 8, 2025**

- **Supreme Court Halts Order to Reinstiate Fired Probationary Federal Employees**
  - The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision [pausing](#) a lower court ruling from Judge William Alsup (Northern District of California and brought by labor unions), that had ordered several federal agencies to reinstate around 16,000 workers, citing lack of standing.
- **NIH and HHS Appeal Permanent Injunction on 15% Indirect Cost Cap**
  - NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy filed to appeal the ruling to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

#### **April 9, 2025**

- **Appeals Court Overturns Lower Ruling on Probationary Firings**
  - The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the administration, allowing terminations of probationary federal employees to proceed. This decision overturned Judge Bredar's earlier reinstatement order directing the government to rehire around 24,000 probationary workers.