

# HOUSE REPUBLICANS SET TO RUBBERSTAMP ELON MUSK'S DESTRUCTION

## President Trump's Rescissions Proposal



## President Trump Asks for Republican Rubberstamp on Elon Musk's Destruction

The \$9.4 billion rescissions proposal from President Trump does nothing to address the cost-of-living crisis that he is making worse, hurts middle class and working families, and undermines national security. These cuts would continue Elon Musk's agenda to chaotically destroy the government and weaken the United States' power at the same time Republicans seek to slash Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

Congressional Democrats are fighting for the middle class, working class, and vulnerable, not protecting the interests of billionaires like Musk. The Republican cuts package hurts hardworking American families by:

- Harming millions of preschool-age kids (and their families) that currently benefit from PBS Kids children's educational programs, such as Sesame Street or Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, that improve children's literacy and math skills.
- Terminating \$1.1 billion in funding for public television and public radio, including funding that is allocated directly to more than 1,500 locally-owned public television or public radio stations.
- Hurting rural communities, as locally-owned public television stations and public radio stations are often the only trusted and reliable news source available, as well as the only coverage of local high school sports.
- Threatening public safety and disaster response, as public television and public radio provide emergency alerts even when other communications systems go down.

From his reckless trade agenda, to antagonizing our closest allies, to doing Putin's bidding in Ukraine, Trump has continued to embarrass the United States on the world stage. Despite Elon Musk's financial interests in China, Trump has put forward a rescissions proposal that strengthens China while hurting the U.S. by:

- Eliminating all of the civilian funding intended to support Ukraine and other partners in Eastern Europe and Central Asia facing aggression from Putin.
- Removing access to basic family planning and contraception for 24 million women – tools regularly available to every woman in America.
- Rescinding \$2.5 billion of development resources away from partner countries
  - Yanking more than 40 million kids out of school.

- Creating communities more likely to need emergency assistance by cutting off 6.2 million small landholder farmers from improved seeds and fertilizer.
- Eliminating efforts to provide access to clean water to more than 3.6 million, increasing exposure to severe illness and death.
- Ceding the role of trusted partner in addressing global health challenges, including by cutting PEPFAR by \$400 million – as without HIV prevention, there’s no reduction in the disease.
- Yanking support from democracy activists and independent journalists cheering authoritarians all over the world.
- Cutting more than 25 percent of the resources provided to support people fleeing conflict and starvation, at a time where more people are forcibly displaced from their homes than ever before.
- Eliminating the U.S. contribution for UNICEF which is currently serving millions of kids surviving conflict and extreme poverty.
- Rescinding funding from programs and agencies illegally terminated and currently under review by the courts such as the Inter-American Foundation, African Development Foundation, and U.S. Institute of Peace.

When Congress funds government programs the President must spend the money Congress appropriates and carry out the programs that Congress directs in law. This is the law and has been so since before the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (ICA) was enacted (as explained in the Committee’s fact sheet [available here](#)). The ICA was enacted as an additional safeguard for Congress’s power of the purse on top of the existing legal framework and gives the President very narrow and circumscribed authority to **temporarily** pause funding only if he follows a very precise procedure, and in the case of a rescissions proposal like this, only for a short time while Congress decides whether to enact a law to grant the President’s rescission request. If Congress passes a law to take back “rescind” the funding, then the money is gone; if Congress rejects the President’s proposals then he is again required to spend the money at issue.

In other words: Congress remains the decider when it comes to funding and the President may only temporarily pause certain types funding **after** sending a formal proposal under strict requirements.

None of these requirements were followed during President Trump and Elon Musk’s first 100 days in office. Sending this message now clearly demonstrates that the Administration has been undertaking their unlawful freezes and thefts with full knowledge that they were breaking the law. The President has no inherent authority to unilaterally freeze appropriations, and never has. Every day this funding was frozen before Congress received this special message was an unlawful attack on resources

Americans' were promised, and yet [the Trump administration has blocked at least \\$425 billion in funding owed to Americans](#).

For more historical context see Protect Democracy's explanation of the Myth of Presidential Impoundment Power, [available here](#).

Sending a special message does not change the fact that the delays and uncertainty caused by Elon Musk and President Trump have caused irreparable harm that cannot be undone. Hardworking families have already gone without food or medicine, lifesaving research has ended, Head Start centers have closed, people in communities across the country have been unable to pay their energy bills, and much more.

Congress should make government services more efficient, but yielding global leadership to China and cutting off rural communities' and working families' access to critical information like severe weather alerts does not create efficiency, nor does it help the American people.