

26 AID staff suing Musk in Maryland. Devex - 20 Feb 2025

Last but not least, an anonymous group of USAID employees and contractors are [suing the billionaire spearheading the administration's sweeping efforts](#) to ax government spending.

Twenty-six former and current USAID employees have **filed a lawsuit against Elon Musk**, head of the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, arguing that he has decimated USAID without the authority to do so.

“The scope and reach of his executive authority appears unprecedented in U.S. history,” states the initial complaint, filed in Maryland.

The lawsuit alleges that **Musk and DOGE have subverted the U.S. Congress** by acting without a formal appointment or congressional nomination, along with operating “beyond the bounds of any proper executive power.”

It also lodges specific accusations, including that after decades of work with the agency, USAID employees were locked out of their systems while DOGE staff were allowed in, Elissa writes.

It notes the DOGE team **had access to the agency's classified systems without the required security clearances**, with one staff member stating DOGE staff gained the ability to “see every email, delete, and send email on behalf of every user within USAID.”

Privacy concerns surrounding DOGE's efficiency campaign were also raised in the lawsuit brought by private service contractors after DOGE published their personal details online.

Read: [Anonymous USAID employees, contractors sue Musk, DOGE](#)