

**ACTION ALERT: The fight for USAID isn't over.** Foreign Policy for America, 11 Feb 2025

The fight for USAID and our national security workforce isn't over.

Last week, I was blown away by how many members of this community have taken action to oppose Elon Musk's illegal and unconstitutional actions. So many people joined in calling their senators that at one point the Senate phone system went down. Here in Washington, thousands came together on Capitol Hill to stand with USAID.

The truth is that Trump and Musk think they can destroy USAID and no one will stand up to defend it. But that hasn't been the case.

First, USAID staff and implementing partners have shared powerful stories detailing the human costs of Trump's aid freeze and the recall of USAID staff from their posts:

- An ebola outbreak now unattended
- Food aid wasting in ports
- Heat and electricity for Ukrainians displaced by war at risk of shutting off
- Oxygen-supplies for patients being cut off
- Clinical trials for new treatments to combat malaria, cholera, and cancer interrupted

Second, the courts are beginning to push back on Trump's and Musk's illegal and unconstitutional actions:

- Two different judges have now issued temporary restraining orders blocking the implementation of Trump's federal funding freeze while calling OPM's efforts to evade compliance with the orders "disingenuous" and "in name only."
- On Friday, another judge issued an order temporarily blocking Trump's efforts to recall USAID professionals from their posts overseas.
- Yesterday and today, several additional lawsuits have been filed by organizations implementing foreign assistance contracts and cooperative agreements.

Taken together, these actions should give us hope that USAID can still be restored and that Trump's assault on the constitutional role of Congress can be stopped.

But to be successful, we need much more leadership from lawmakers. And we need it NOW.

That's why I'm asking you today to call your Senators and ask them to oppose all further consideration and action on pending nominations until the Trump administration restores USAID's functions as mandated by federal law.

Ask them to refuse to agree to any unanimous consent requests or motions to proceed to any political nominees until the Trump Administration:

- Restores USAID as an independent agency with sufficient staff to carry out its functions, including by stopping the blanket application of administrative leave without cause,
- Reverses interventions at the Department of the Treasury to block payments owed to USAID contractors and grantees,
- Allows the fulfillment of existing USAID contracts and agreements, and
- Commits to obligating funds appropriated by Congress in a timely fashion.

This isn't a step we take lightly. In fact, Foreign Policy for America has never before called for these kinds of actions. But we have no choice. The illegal and unconstitutional actions can't be ignored. They have to stop now.

Once Congress' constitutional role is respected, we will welcome the debate on foreign assistance. There are smart, bipartisan ways to strengthen our foreign assistance programs, but they can only be pursued after the Trump administration reverses its reckless, illegal actions.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out anytime. If you want to help with media engagement, contact [Rana.Nejad@FP4America.org](mailto:Rana.Nejad@FP4America.org). To help with contacting lawmakers, reach out to [Brian.Volsky@FP4America.org](mailto:Brian.Volsky@FP4America.org). If you want to join FP4A or help grow our community, contact [Kristina@FP4America.org](mailto:Kristina@FP4America.org).

We're standing by to support you.

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