

Report on HFAC Session on State Reorganization. *Devex*, 2 May 2025

A House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing this week **laid bare just how divided lawmakers remain** over the Trump administration’s overhaul of the U.S. State Department — and [who gets consulted \(or doesn’t\) in the process](#).

While Republicans said the State Department’s sweeping reorganization had been the result of “extensive consultation,” Democrats **blasted the process as exclusionary and opaque**, particularly after learning it included the elimination of 132 offices and roughly 700 staff positions without bipartisan input.

Rep. Brian Mast, the committee’s Republican chair, **admitted the administration bypassed most Democrats**, justifying the move by citing “woke” foreign aid programs from the Biden era. Democrats, meanwhile, decried the near-total dismantling of [USAID](#) and demanded answers for why top officials — including Secretary of State Marco Rubio — have yet to testify publicly on the matter.

Going forward, Mast said the **reauthorization of the State Department will be “100% member-driven,”** and that every lawmaker — Republican or Democrat — will have the opportunity to submit their ideas into a portal created for the task.

Read: [US lawmakers clash over State Department’s future](#)