

USAID Class Action Suit against Musk and DOGE. By Helen Murphy, *Devex Newswire*, 21 Aug 2025

DOGE chargers

A federal judge has ruled that [USAID](#) employees **can pursue a class action claim against Elon Musk** and his Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, the budget-slashing office that fired nearly all the agency's employees earlier this year.

The ruling came after the U.S. Supreme Court limited the use of universal injunctions, prompting advocates to turn to **class action litigation for federal workers affected by mass reductions in force**. With a class action lawsuit, multiple people can sue on behalf of a larger group with similar claims — giving the individuals a stronger collective voice than they might have if pursuing such claims on their own, Elissa tells me.

“Today’s ruling is another important step towards accountability on behalf of the thousands whose lives and work have been upended by Musk and Trump’s callous dismantling of USAID,” says Tianna Mays, legal director for Democracy Defenders Fund, which filed the case alongside USAID employees earlier this year. “This was an unconstitutional power grab and **it is essential that the Trump administration answers for it.**”

For months, plaintiffs have been arguing that DOGE’s efforts to merge USAID into the State Department — and terminate thousands of employees in the process — violated the appointments clause, and **ignored the separation of powers by sidestepping Congress**. That case is still ongoing, with U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang rejecting the government’s motion to dismiss it last week.

Further reading: [Court watch — the latest on the USAID docket](#)

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