



FACT SHEETS

# President Donald J. Trump Is Combating Bureaucratic Abuse and Holding Federal Agencies Accountable

— LAW & JUSTICE

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We are reforming the bureaucracy to make it lean, responsive, and accountable. And we are ensuring our laws are enforced fairly.

*President Donald J. Trump*

**RESTORING TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS: President Donald J. Trump is protecting Americans by restoring transparency and fairness to the bureaucracy.**

- Today, President Trump signed two Executive Orders that will improve the transparency and fairness of government agencies and ensure that they are held accountable.
- The “Improved Agency Guidance Documents” Executive Order requires agencies to put their guidance documents on easily searchable websites so individuals are able to access them.
  - To ensure Americans have their voices heard, the Order will also require government agencies to seek public input on the most important guidance they issue.
  - Americans will be able to ask agencies to withdraw guidance they believe is wrong.

- The “Transparency and Fairness” Executive Order prohibits agencies from enforcing rules they have not made publicly known in advance.
- The order also instructs agencies to offer opinion letters to individuals and businesses who request them, so people who want to comply with the law can learn how.

**COMBATING BUREAUCRATIC ABUSE: The Trump Administration is taking action to end the administrative abuse that hurts American families and small businesses.**

- Under the Obama Administration, a lack of transparency and accountability allowed Federal agencies to commit horrible abuses against the American people.
- Agencies abused their power by imposing unlawful and secret interpretations of regulations, as well as by threatening families and businesses with unfair and unexpected penalties.
  - In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) threatened a family with up to \$20 million in fines for building an environmentally-friendly pond for livestock without first seeking EPA permission, even though Congress had exempted these ponds from EPA’s reach.
  - A 77-year-old United States Navy veteran was imprisoned and ordered to pay \$130,000 after the EPA – under the Clean Water Act – declared several small ponds the veteran created to fight wildfires as federally protected navigable waters.
- Going forward, agencies will have to give people fair notice of any complaint against them and a chance to respond.

**UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENTERPRISE: These actions build on President Trump’s historic efforts to unleash economic growth and increase prosperity through regulatory reform.**

- President Trump has delivered on his promise to cut burdensome and unnecessary regulations that stifle economic growth and hurt small businesses.
  - The removal of agency mandates affords small businesses the opportunity to use their profits to invest in job creation and grow instead of wasting them on compliance costs.
- The Administration has cut 14 regulations for every new significant regulation implemented.
- These actions are reversing a long track record of a highly ineffective federal bureaucracy that has harmed American businesses and families to no end.

