EXHIBIT 1

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

Trump administration freezes $175 million in federal funding to Penn

March 19, 2025

1968 Wharton graduate and President Donald Trump's administration announced that it would be freezing over $175 million in federal funding to Penn on March 19, citing the University's failure to bar transgender athletes from women's sports.

According to a White House tweet, Wednesday's decision is a result of Penn's "policies forcing women to compete with men in sports." The funding pause follows a Feb. 5 executive order signed by Trump that threatened to remove federal funding from universities that allow the participation of transgender athletes in women's sports.

"This is just a taste of what could be coming down the pipe for Penn," one senior Trump administration official told Fox News.

In a statement to The Daily Pennsylvanian, a senior White House official wrote that the funding freeze was not a result of an ongoing Title IX investigation into Penn but rather "[an] immediate proactive action to review discretionary funding streams to ... universities."

The official said that the decision to cut funding was made because Penn "infamously permitted a male to compete on its women's swimming team." They added that the cuts would be made to federal funding that Penn receives from the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services.

A Penn spokesperson wrote in a statement to the DP that while the University is "aware of media reports suggesting a suspension of $175 million in federal funding," the federal government has yet to share "any official notification or any details" about the recent action.

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The statement added that Penn has "always followed NCAA and Ivy League policies" and does not have its own policy "regarding student participation on athletic teams." It also highlighted that "NCAA policies have evolved over the years" and pointed to policy revisions made by the NCAA and Ivy League in response to Trump's February executive order.

"Indeed, we have been in the past, and remain today, in full compliance with all the regulations that apply not only to Penn, but all of our NCAA and Ivy League peer institutions," the spokesperson wrote.

A DOD spokesperson directed a request for comment to the White House, and a request for comment was left with HHS.

In a statement to the DP, Philadelphia City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier — who represents Philadelphia's third district, which includes Penn — called the federal funding freeze "deplorable" and said that the Trump administration was "threatening tens of thousands of jobs, our hospitals, lifesaving research projects ... and so much more" by targeting funds unrelated to transgender student-athletes.

"More than anything, Trump's attack is meant to divide us -- we cannot let him succeed. Penn has an opportunity to stand up for their vulnerable students by taking Trump to court. We have already seen that lawsuits successfully counter Trump's hateful, cruel, and legally questionable actions," she wrote. "I urge Penn to do the right thing by standing tall and fighting back."

Gauthier added that if Penn does not take legal action against the funding freeze, it should use funds from its endowment to prevent layoffs or service reductions.

“I am proud that many transgender individuals call West and Southwest Philadelphia home,” she wrote. “They make our community stronger and a better place to live. I will always stand with them.”

2013 Engineering graduate and Pennsylvania state Rep. Rick Krajewski (D-Philadelphia) wrote in a statement to the DP that Trump’s decision to freeze Penn’s funding was “yet another abuse of his executive power in service to his authoritarian agenda.” Krajewski added that he was “proud of [his] alma mater for protecting the rights of its trans athletes” and urged the University “to resist this bullying attempt.”

Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania Witold Walczak also criticized the move from the White House, calling it “another example of this administration’s punitive and discriminatory policies targeting the trans community and cynically going after the most vulnerable Americans.”

“The ACLU of Pennsylvania will continue to fight for the rights of trans people to be their full, authentic selves,” Walczak added.

Riley Gaines, an activist and former University of Kentucky swimmer, called the news “serendipitous” in a statement on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. Three years ago, Gaines tied with Thomas in the 200-yard freestyle at the 2022 NCAA championships and subsequently built a career campaigning against transgender women’s participation in women’s sports.

In a separate statement on X, 2022 Engineering graduate and former Penn women’s swimmer Paula Scanlan — who has also built a platform speaking out against Thomas’ participation in Penn athletics — wrote, “This is what I voted for. More of this.”

On Feb. 5, Trump signed an executive order explicitly barring transgender women from participating in women’s sports. The executive order promised to “rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities, which results in the endangerment, humiliation, and silencing of women and girls and deprives them of privacy.”

On Feb. 6, the United States Department of Education launched an investigation into Penn for Title IX violations for allowing 2022 College graduate and transgender woman Lia Thomas to represent Penn women’s swimming and diving during the 2021-22 NCAA swimming and diving season. Shortly after, the NCAA changed its policy to align with the order.

Three former Penn women’s swimmers who competed with Thomas during that season also filed a separate lawsuit for Title IX violations.

As part of the Penn women’s swimming and diving team, Thomas collected multiple still-standing program records, Ivy League titles, and an NCAA championship. The DOE notably sent a letter to NCAA President Charlie Baker urging Thomas’ accolades be reallocated.

Since the start of his second term, Trump has instituted a flurry of executive orders and federal actions impacting higher education institutions across the country — including Penn. The National Institutes of Health implemented a funding cut on Feb. 7 that could cost Penn $240 million.

Trump will be in Philadelphia this weekend to attend the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships — co-hosted by Penn, Drexel University, and PHL Sports — at the Wells Fargo Center in South Philadelphia.

Editor’s Note: This story has been updated to reflect that Paula Scanlan is a 2022 Engineering graduate. A previous version of this story identified her as a 2022 College graduate. The DP regrets the error.

Senior reporter Alex Dash covers administration and can be reached at dash@thedp.com. At Penn, he studies history and political science. Follow him on X @AlexBDash.

EXHIBIT 2

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

Post

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Rapid Response 47
@RapidResponse47

BREAKING: The Trump Administration has "paused $175 million in federal funding from the University of Pennsylvania" over its policies forcing women to compete with men in sports.

Promises made, promises kept.



9:08 AM · Mar 19, 2025 · **705.5K** Views

464 1.2K 9.2K 137

Patricia Anderson @MrsPatriciaA81 · Mar 19, 2025
Thank you President Trump for standing up for women!

4 11 173 2.9K

Anthony Galli @AnthonyGalli · Mar 19, 2025
This is a low bar...

Don’t force women to get beat up by men.

Why do Democrats struggle with this so much?

30 13 144 5K

EXHIBIT 3

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

As it happened: Penn recoups $175 million in frozen funds after securing Title IX resolution

This live blog has now concluded.

After announcing a resolution agreement with the Department of Education to settle an investigation into Title IX violations yesterday, Penn has begun complying with the federal government's requirements.

The University has removed 2022 College graduate and former Penn swimmer Lia Thomas' individual records, issued a public statement specifying that Penn Athletics "will adopt biology-based definitions for the words 'male' and 'female' pursuant to Title IX and consistent with President Trump's Executive Orders," and privately apologized to affected athletes.

White House Senior Policy Strategist May Mailman told The Daily Pennsylvanian on July 1 that Penn initially approached the federal government to begin negotiations "several months" ago. The federal government, she added, will ensure that the University upholds their end of the agreement.

Following the agreement, the White House released $175 million in previously frozen federal funding to Penn on Wednesday. The decision to cut funding in March was made because Penn "infamously permitted a male to compete on its women's swimming team," according to a senior White House official at the time.

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The Daily Pennsylvanian

7:46 p.m. · July 02 - Sameeksha Panda

Republican lawmakers voice support for White House leadership, Penn's compliance



Several prominent Republican lawmakers across the country expressed their support for Penn's resolution agreement with the Department of Education, with many applauding the federal government's role in the negotiations.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), the third-highest-ranking Republican in the United States Senate — wrote that he was "grateful that President Trump forced UPenn to apologize and end its absurd policy of allowing men to compete in women's sports."

He added that "Every campus should do the same and protect women's sports."

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) called Penn's compliance "fantastic news." Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) also praised the Trump administration, stating that "after the Democrat Party willfully and purposefully destroyed opportunity for female athletes, President Trump is protecting women and girls sports!"

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) criticized the Biden administration's previous leadership, writing that "these athletes would never have received the justice they deserve under Biden."

"Thankfully, they now have a president who is on their side," she added.

The Republican-controlled House Committee on Education and the Workforce called the decision a "huge win for women and girls in sports." Former Alabama state Sen. Phil Williams and U.S. Reps. Mary Miller (R-Ill.) and Rich McCormick (R-Ga.) similarly described the agreement as a "major win" for women's sports, "common sense," and America.

Reps. Burgess Owens (R-Utah) and John Rutherford (R-Fla.) both expressed their gratitude for the "historic lengths" taken by the Trump administration "to end [Penn's] egregious violation of Title IX."

"It's time more colleges recognized what Americans already know: fairness in women's sports is non-negotiable," Owens wrote.

7:07 p.m. · July 02 - Finn Ryan

Faculty group condemns Penn's 'failure to commit' to ideals amid Title IX resolution

The Executive Committee of Penn's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors condemned the University's chosen "path of political expediency at the expense of trans athletes" in a public statement following Penn's resolution agreement with the Department of Education.

The Wednesday statement — which links to other AAUP statements and articles — characterized the University's compliance as "a painful reminder that Penn's administration will not adhere" to its diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments.

The Executive Committee emphasized that the University's decision contradicts the collective action of "1100 workers at Penn [who] signed a petition demanding that Penn uphold research and counter funding cuts, affirm sanctuary and legal rights of immigrants, maintain commitments to DEIA, and stand up for equal treatment for LGBTQ+ members of our community."

"Penn makes all trans students, faculty, staff, and community members less safe, exposing them to renewed and emboldened harassment and discriminatory treatment," the statement continues.

The Executive Committee also referenced Penn's "failure to commit" to its motto — which translates to "Laws Without Morals are Useless."

In the statement, the Executive Committee encouraged the Penn community "to recognize the urgency of this moment" and hold "this institution accountable to its professed ideals."

5:46 p.m. · July 02 - Ayana Chari

Penn Carey Law professor says the University reached a 'reasonable' agreement

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School professor of law and philosophy Claire Finkelstein wrote in a statement to The Daily Pennsylvanian that the agreement the University reached with the federal government "is a reasonable one in an environment that is becoming increasingly unreasonable for all institutions of higher learning."

Finkelstein noted that the federal government's current scrutiny of higher education is unique to the Trump administration.

"While other administrations have used threats to the federal funding and tax-exempt status of universities to compel their compliance with particular policy objectives, the Trump administration has raised political pressure on universities to an entirely new level," Finkelstein wrote.

Since returning to office, President and 1968 Wharton graduate Donald Trump has launched attacks on higher education — including cutting research and grant funding, restricting student visas, investigating specific institutions, and issuing demands to Penn and its peer institutions.

"On the question of transgender athletes, as in other areas, Penn's best course is to follow clear federal law, such as Title IX, whenever possible, and to seek interpretive guidance on that law from relevant professional standards, such as applicable athletic rules and community standards," Finkelstein wrote. "That is what Penn has done in entering into this agreement."

4:06 p.m. · July 02 - Riana Mahtani

Civil rights organizations criticize Penn's compliance with Education Department, 'manipulation' of Title IX

National civil rights organizations have spoken out against Penn's resolution agreement with the Department of Education.

The Human Rights Campaign condemned the Trump administration's handling of the case, characterizing it as a politically motivated attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

"The American people deserve a White House that is laser focused on making sure every student thrives," Brandon Wolf — the organization's national press secretary — said in a statement to The New York Times. "Instead, this administration is obsessed with making young people's lives harder and scapegoating transgender people so they can attack independent institutions. This country deserves better."

Shiwali Patel — the National Women's Law Center's senior director of safe and inclusive schools — also issued a statement of disapproval about the agreement.

"The University of Pennsylvania's utter failure to stand up for transgender students and the Department of Education's continued manipulation of Title IX to harm transgender students have led to this devastating and shameful outcome," Patel said. "The Trump administration's attacks on civil rights protections, including Title IX, and obsession with undermining bodily autonomy is the real harm to women and girls — unlike transgender athletes who want to compete in sports alongside their peers and pose no threat to women's sports, contrary to Trump's lies. In fact, their inclusion benefits all women and girls."

The NWLC has pledged their continued support of 2022 College graduate and former Penn swimmer Lia Thomas and her peers with regard to their "right to compete."

4:05 p.m. · July 02 - Isha Chitirala

Pa. Senator Dave McCormick praises Penn resolution over Title IX

Sen. Dave McCormick (R-Pa.) praised Penn's resolution with the Department of Education as a "long overdue step in the right direction" in a Tuesday social media post.

McCormick — who was elected to the Senate last year — has previously spoken out against transgender athletes competing according to their preferred gender identity. At a June 2024 campaign event, McCormick said "the very idea of allowing biological males to compete with biological females is fundamentally unfair" and "guts women's sports."

He also met with 2022 Engineering graduate and former Penn swimmer Paula Scanlan at a debate last year, and described her as a "champion for defending women's sports" who was "censored for speaking out against a man competing in her sport at UPenn" in a subsequent social media post.

4:02 p.m. · July 02 - Jasmine Ni

Education Department official says Penn's resolution marks end of 'toothless' Title IX enforcement

In an interview with The Daily Pennsylvanian, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights for the Department of Education Craig Trainor said he has "every confidence" that Penn will comply with the terms outlined in the resolution agreement within the 10 business day timeline. He stated that the Education Department will "work with Penn to ensure that they remain in full compliance with Title IX," noting that the University's "willingness to enter into this resolution agreement indicates that they intend to do that."

“What Penn subjected Paula Scanlan, Riley Gaines, and other women to during the Biden administration years is outrageous and it was illegal. There's no question about it and they know it,” Trainor said. “That's why they came to the table under the Trump administration to make a resolution and to try to make things right. I think that's exactly the right approach for universities across the country who have been violating Title IX, title VI and other civil rights laws under the prior administration.”

As the agency continues to scrutinize higher education institutions, Trainor encouraged “universities and colleges across this country to look at what Penn did.” He emphasized that the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will continue investigations and offer universities the opportunity to “come to the table, get ahead of this, and work with us to come into compliance with federal civil rights law” — adding that cooperation would be contingent on institutions following the terms outlined by the agency.

“Penn provides a model for institutions that want to do right by their victims, and that want to follow the law and show that they are ready to be serious and responsible and respect the anti-discrimination laws that they are required to follow if they want to continue to receive taxpayer funds,” Trainor said.

He added that the federal government made it “very clear” to Penn’s representatives that certain terms and language contained in the proposed resolution agreement were “non-negotiable.”

“We desired to bring them into full compliance with Title IX and this agreement does that,” Trainor said. “The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights represented the American people zealously. We ensured that [Penn] came into compliance with Title IX, and we ensured that the agreement had teeth. The Biden administration days of toothless resolution agreements are over, and this agreement makes that clear.”

3:30 p.m. · July 02 - Justin Lee

Former Penn swimmers, lawsuit plaintiffs say University still has to take 'full accountability'

2024 College graduates Margot Kaczorowski and Ellen Holmquist — who swam on Penn's women’s swimming and diving team during the 2021-22 season and were former teammates of Lia Thomas — spoke on Fox & Friends about the University’s federal settlement agreement on Wednesday morning. Both women are currently plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Penn alleging Title IX violations for the same season.

“I’m really grateful for the Trump administration and what they are doing to protect women, but there’s so much more to go,” Kaczorowski said. “They wouldn’t be doing this without the federal government forcing them, so I think we have a long way to go to make sure women’s rights are upheld and policies are in place to ensure the verification process that it’s only females in women’s sports.”

Both women said that they are thinking of future athletes, with Holmquist stating that she hopes to ensure the "situation that happened to me never happens to someone else in the future."

Kaczorowski echoed that statement and said she “would like for women’s rights to be upheld to the utmost standard and for those titles and records to come down.”

On Tuesday, 1996 College graduate and T. Gibbs Kane, Jr. W'69 Director of Athletics and Recreation Alanna Wren sent out individual apology letters to former athletes “regarding the Penn Women’s Swimming 2021-22 season,” according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Daily Pennsylvanian.

When asked about whether they had received these letters, both graduates said that they had.

“While they are kind of acknowledging what went on that year, they’re really not taking full accountability the way that I wish that they would,” Kaczorowski said. "I think that they have an opportunity to hear if they’re going to accept responsibility to then work with us, work with girls who actually want to see change and ensure that women’s rights are protected going forward.”

Holmquist added that Penn was “more so passing the blame on to the NCAA” because they claimed to be “abiding the rules at that time.”

“It’s really not acknowledging the fact that that was completely wrong in the in the time of 2022,” Holmquist said. “I’m hoping that things start to change, and they take this opportunity to take full responsibility in court.”

1:43 p.m. · July 02 - Anvi Sehgal

Conservative Pennsylvania Rep. calls agreement a 'great step in the right direction'

In an interview with The Daily Pennsylvanian, Pennsylvania state Rep. Martina White (R-Philadelphia) said she “fully supports” Penn’s “positive” decision.

“Women have worked for decades to earn equal opportunity and competition, and that progress needs to be protected,” White said. “In terms of this agreement, it’s definitely a necessary step to preserving the integrity of women’s sports and for UPenn and the students on campus.”

White has been outspoken in her efforts to prevent transgender women from participating in women’s sports. She was part of a group of lawmakers who introduced a bill in Harrisburg to ban transgender youth from competing in their preferred gender category.

“Here in Pennsylvania, I think that our governor and this commonwealth should be upholding as well Title IX and making sure that it’s reaffirmed in statute,” she said. “More needs to be done, but I think this is a great step in the right direction.”

White emphasized that this move was particularly “important” for “young women … to know that their hard work is going to pay off.”

As of Tuesday evening, Lia Thomas’ individual records had been removed from the Penn Athletics website.

“All of it’s now restored, and their highest achievements are now recognized, and they deserve that, because they’ve worked hard for it, and they don’t deserve to be cheated out of it,” White said.

White classified the experiences of athletes who competed as “unfortunate.”

“I think, [it] was probably very, very difficult,” she said. “What those achievements should have been for those young women, it was a real shame, and I can’t imagine what they had to go through.”

11:21 a.m. · July 02 - Anvi Sehgal

White House restores $175 million in previously frozen funding



The White House has restored $175 million in federal funding to Penn that was previously frozen due to the University's alleged failure to comply with an executive order barring transgender athletes from women's sports, CNN reported Wednesday.

The funding restoration comes after Penn entered a resolution agreement with the Trump administration on Monday, complying with all three Title IX demands issued by the federal government.

The White House announced on March 19 that it would freeze more than $175 million in federal funding to Penn, promising to "rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities."

At the time of the funding freeze, a senior White House official wrote in a statement to the DP that the change was not related to the Title IX investigation into Penn, but rather an "immediate proactive action to review discretionary funding streams to ... universities."

Related:

Trump administration freezes $175 million in federal funding to Penn

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10:59 a.m. · July 02 - Finn Ryan

Penn GSWS program director says University chose compliance in face of government 'tyranny'

Director of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program and Annenberg School for Communication professor Jessa Lingel wrote in a statement to the DP that the University's "obedience" to the federal government "goes way beyond trans athletes" as a "signal that trans people aren't fully valued at Penn."

Quoting Benjamin Franklin's advice that "rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God," Lingel wrote that "Penn had an opportunity here to be rebellious in the face of tyranny and opted instead for obedience." She added that the move was a "huge disappointment."

The GSWS website currently includes a message that the program "is an inclusive space, committed to affirming students, staff, and faculty of all genders and identities, including trans and non-binary individuals."

Lingel has previously affirmed GSWS's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, despite escalating federal scrutiny. In March, Lingel told the DP that the program would not remove DEI references from its website — as all 12 of Penn's undergraduate and graduate schools had done — despite calls from University administrators to follow suit.

12:01 a.m. · July 02 - Finn Ryan

Secretary of Education applauds Penn's compliance, outlines closed-door negotiations

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon described Penn's resolution agreement as "a turning point" in Title IX compliance during her Tuesday remarks at the nation's capital.

Calling Penn "one of the most well-known offenders of Title IX," McMahon referenced the University's response to the Education Department's "clear" message that "allowing men to claim they are women, so they can invade women's locker rooms and compete against them in sports, was neither fair nor safe."

"So UPenn came back to the table and asked us what they can do to make it right," McMahon added. "We said, 'You have to completely rewrite your institutional policy.' They signed on the dotted line."

She applauded the efforts of former Penn swimmer Paula Scanlan, former NCAA swimmer Riley Gaines, along with the University for "recogniz[ing] the harm caused to these excellent female athletes and now seek[ing] to make amends."

9:25 p.m. · July 01 - Alex Dash

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon calls Penn's compliance a 'template' for other universities to follow

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon praised Penn's resolution agreement with the Education Department as a "template" for universities "to acknowledge there is no room for men in women's sports."

The agreement should serve as an example of how universities can "get in line and make things right for our women and girls who are going into these sports," McMahon said in a Tuesday interview with Fox News.

"We hope that that agreement is going to be a template for other universities who acknowledge that there is no room for men and women's sports, not only during the competition, but also in the locker room and other intimate spaces where these women were required to be with males who changed in front of them," McMahon added.

She called the decision an "utter triumph" for the federal government and "the women and girls who will come behind Riley Gaines and Paula Scanlan."

8:34 p.m. · July 01 - Finn Ryan

Local politicians condemn Penn's 'surrender' to the Trump administration



Penn's city councilmember Jamie Gauthier, councilmember Rue Landau, and Pennsylvania state Rep. Rick Krajewski (D-Philadelphia) issued a statement condemning Penn's "surrender to Trump demands."

"We are deeply disappointed in the University of Pennsylvania's decision to reward a politically motivated campaign that seeks to erase Transgender athletes under the narrative of equity in sports," the elected officials wrote. "This move is not about equity. It is about appeasing the Trump Administration."

The representatives described the revisions to Thomas' competitive record as "not just ethically wrong," but the beginning of a "dangerous message." They added that "Lia Thomas deserved her place on that team, as affirmed by athletic and legal standards."

Gauthier has previously criticized several decisions made by Trump's administration. In February, she introduced a resolution to the City Council on denouncing Trump for referring to himself as a king.

8:19 p.m. · July 01 - Sean McKeown

Penn issues letters of apology to former swimmers

On Tuesday, 1996 College graduate and T. Gibbs Kane, Jr. W'69 Director of Athletics and Recreation Alanna Wren sent out individual apology letters to former athletes "regarding the Penn Women's Swimming 2021-22 season," according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Daily Pennsylvanian.

Penn issued individual apologies as a result of the resolution agreement the University struck with the Department of Education over an investigation into Title IX violations. According to an Education Department press release, the letter is one of the federal agency's three demands that Penn must comply with.

Under the rules newly established by the Education Department, "former Penn student-athlete Lia Thomas would not be permitted to compete as a member of

the Penn Women's Swimming team," Wren wrote in the letter.

"The U.S. Department of Education's guidance and NCAA policy on transgender student-athlete participation have changed, and Penn has adjusted its practices accordingly," Wren wrote.

Although "Penn's policies during the 2021-2022 swim season were in accordance with NCAA rules at the time," Wren issued an apology — on behalf of the University — to student-athletes who experienced "competitive disadvantage" due to the rules at the time.

"Penn is dedicated to providing a wide array of athletic opportunities to enrich the educational experience of our students, while at all times complying with federal law and NCAA rules and policies," Wren added.

The University also updated its books, removing Thomas' individual records.

7:55 p.m. · July 01 - Isha Chitirala

Penn professor, constitutional law expert says Trump gave University an 'impossible choice'

In a statement to The Daily Pennsylvanian, Wharton Legal Studies and Business Ethics professor and constitutional law expert Amanda Shanor wrote that the Department of Education's investigation into Penn "threatened the University with crushing punishment for following the law."

When 2022 College graduate and transgender swimmer Lia Thomas competed on Penn's women's Swimming and Diving team, Shanor added, the University was "required to [allow her] by both the NCAA's rules and the Department of Education under Title IX."

She described the "strategy" of the Trump administration as to "ratchet the stakes so high that institutions fold to its will, regardless of how unlawful or unconstitutional its demands."

"This puts university leaders to an impossible choice: do the President's illegal bidding or lose perhaps billions of dollars, and in so doing devastate the lives that depend on that research," Shanor wrote.

Peer institutions — such as Harvard University — have been met with severe federal funding freezes after refusing to comply with demands from the Trump administration.

"If the government decimates major research institutions like Penn, it will cause crippling and long-lasting damage to the American economy, to its healthcare, to its international competitiveness, and to the arc of human knowledge," Shanor's stated.

Shanor previously worked as a lawyer for the American Civil Rights Union and represented Charlie Craig and David Mullins, the gay couple denied service by Masterpiece Cakeshop, before the Supreme Court in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

"Despite the University's decision not to fight on this issue, I am desperately trying to retain hope that Penn and other institutions like it will stand up before it is too late for all of us," Shanor concluded.

7:48 p.m. · July 01 - Justin Lee

Lia Thomas' records stripped from Penn Athletics website





Lia Thomas' individual records have been removed from the Penn Athletics website as of Tuesday evening.

A note was added at the bottom of the women's swimming and diving records page stating that "competing under eligibility rules in effect at the time, Lia Thomas set program records in the 100, 200 and 500 freestyle during the 2021-22 season."

Thomas' records were removed in compliance with the Education Department demand that required Penn to restore accolades "misappropriated" by transgender athletes.

As of publication, Thomas' name is still listed in the record for the 400-meter free relay.

Thomas was the first transgender athlete to win a NCAA Division I title. The University maintained its compliance with NCAA rules at the time of Thomas' participation, citing a review to meet "current eligibility guidelines" for the erasure of records.

7:37 p.m. · July 01 - Riana Mahtani

Penn publishes new Title IX policy

On Tuesday, Penn published a Title IX athletics compliance statement, affirming that the University will follow Title IX "as interpreted by the Department of Education." According to the statement, "all practices, policies, and procedures adopted and implemented by the University with respect to women's athletics will comply" with two recent Trump administration executive orders. The orders — Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, which was issued in January, and Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports, which was issued in February — mandate sex-based separation in athletics.

According to Penn's statement, facilities "such as locker rooms and bathrooms in connection with Penn Athletics" will be "strictly separated on the basis of sex and comparably provided to each sex." The statement emphasizes that Title IX applied regardless of rules set by "sporting or scholastic governing bodies."

"The University will not delegate its obligation to comply with Title IX to an external association or other entity," Penn wrote in their statement.

7:19 p.m. · July 01 - Isha Chitirala

Former Penn swimmer speaks out in support of University decision

2022 Engineering graduate and former Penn swimmer Paula Scanlan appeared in Washington, D.C. following the announcement.

"So many women have fought so hard, for so many years, on this issue," Scanlan said. "I have quite literally gotten exactly what I voted for." She has been outspoken in her support for 1968 Wharton graduate and President Donald Trump.

Scanlan also applauded the University's decision in an Education Department press release.

"As a former UPenn swimmer who had to compete against and share a locker room with a male athlete, I am deeply grateful to the Trump Administration for refusing to back down on protecting women and girls and restoring our rightful accolades," the statement read.

She called the development a "momentous step in repairing the past mistreatment of female athletes" and a step toward a future where "sex discrimination plays no role in limiting girls' potential."

The press release also included a statement from former University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines — who tied for fifth place with 2022 College graduate and transgender athlete Lia Thomas in the 2022 NCAA Division I Swimming and Diving Championships.

"From day one, President Trump and Secretary McMahon vowed to protect women and girls, and today's agreement with UPenn is a historic display of that promise being fulfilled," Gaines wrote.

Gaines was also in attendance at the D.C. event.

6:51 p.m. · July 01 - Ethan Young

Penn approached the White House to begin negotiations in April, official says

On Tuesday, White House Senior Policy Strategist May Mailman told The Daily Pennsylvanian that Penn initially approached the federal government to begin negotiations "several months" ago, adding that the White House will ensure the terms of the July 1 agreement are complied with.

"This is an agreement where there are terms, and so we expect for those terms to be complied with," Mailman said. "If they're not, then, then they will continue to face substantial liability under Title IX."

If Penn follows through with the terms outlined in the agreement, the University could see the $175 million in funding that was frozen in April restored.

The White House announced on March 19 that it would freeze more than $175 million in federal funding to Penn, citing the University's alleged failure to comply with an executive order barring transgender athletes from women's sports and promising to "rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities."

Mailman added that Penn could be rewarded for showing "goodwill" throughout the negotiations and could potentially receive funding from other institutions — such as Harvard — that have had funding paused.

"There's obviously a real relationship with the federal government and for a university to recognize that and treat it like that, and be able to have a conversation like adults, I think, will always result in a listening side from the government," Mailman said.

5:34 p.m. · July 01 - Ayana Chari, Isha Chitirala, and Finn Ryan

Penn complies with Education Department demands in Title IX resolution agreement

Penn entered into a resolution agreement with the Department of Education to resolve an investigation into the University's compliance with Title IX on Monday.

According to a Education Department press release, Penn will comply with the three demands issued by the federal agency in April: release a statement affirming compliance with Title IX, restore accolades "misappropriated" by transgender athletes to female athletes, and send individual apology letters to the affected athletes. The University will additionally issue a public statement specifying that Penn Athletics "will adopt biology-based definitions for the words 'male' and 'female' pursuant to Title IX and consistent with President Trump's Executive Orders."

The July 1 announcement comes more than two months after the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights found Penn in violation of Title IX following the University's decision to allow 2022 College graduate and transgender swimmer Lia Thomas to compete on the University's women's swimming and diving team during the 2021-22 season.

"Today's resolution agreement with UPenn is yet another example of the Trump effect in action. Thanks to the leadership of President Trump, UPenn has agreed both to apologize for its past Title IX violations and to ensure that women's sports are protected at the University for future generations of female athletes," said Secretary of Education Linda McMahon in the Education Department's press release.

Related:

Penn complies with Education Department demands in Title IX resolution agreement

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EXHIBIT 4

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

US • 5 MIN READ

Trump administration releases $175 million in federal funding to Penn after transgender athletes agreement

UPDATED JUL 2, 2025

By Amanda Musa, Betsy Klein



The Trump administration has released $175 million in previously frozen federal funding to the University of Pennsylvania, a White House official told CNN on Wednesday, following an agreement on how the university would handle transgender athletes.

The funding release comes after the school reached an agreement with the federal government to block transgender athletes from female sports teams and erase the records set by swimmer Lia Thomas.

“We told them that institutions that violate federal civil rights law could lose their federal funding … So UPenn came back to the table and asked us what they can do to make it right,” Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in remarks announcing the UPenn agreement Tuesday.

“We said, ‘You have to completely rewrite your institutional policy.’ They signed on the dotted line,” McMahon said. “We said, ‘You have to take these steps with records and reporting so this never happens again.’”

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CNN has reached out to UPenn for comment.

The agreement comes as part of the Trump administration's broader restrictions on transgender people, as it steps up its efforts to ban transgender athletes from competing in women's sports nationwide and serving in the military.

Thomas, a UPenn graduate, won the 2022 NCAA championship in the women's 500-yard freestyle. Thomas is a transgender woman.

"Penn has always followed — and continues to follow — Title IX and the applicable policy of the NCAA regarding transgender athletes," UPenn President J. Larry Jameson said in a news release Tuesday.

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In February, the NCAA announced an overhaul of its transgender athlete policy to limit transgender participation in women's sports in response to Trump's executive order.

The White House in March cut off $175 million in federal funds for Penn related to the issue of transgender athletes.

The funds had been supporting "lifesaving and life-improving research" at the university, including on preventing hospital-acquired infections, drug screening against deadly viruses and protections against chemical warfare, Jameson said in a statement in March.

Thomas' records have been removed from a UPenn list of all-time school records in women's swimming. A note at the bottom of the document reads, "Competing under eligibility rules in effect at the time, Lia Thomas set program records in the 100, 200 and 500 freestyle during the 2021-22 season."

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CNN has reached out to the NCAA for comment regarding the agreement.

The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights said in a statement Tuesday that an investigation found UPenn violated Title IX by "permitting males to compete in women's intercollegiate athletics and to occupy women-only intimate facilities."

Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination at any academic institution that receives federal funding.

UPenn also agreed to issue a statement specifying that it "will adopt biology-based definitions for the words 'male' and 'female' pursuant to Title IX" and consistent with two executive orders on transgender athletes from President Donald Trump, according to the Department of Education.

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The school says it will also apologize to female student athletes who lost to Thomas during the 2021-2022 swim season. “We recognize this and will apologize to those who experienced a competitive disadvantage or experienced anxiety because of the policies in effect at the time,” Jameson said.

Trump’s ban on female trans athletes

In February, Trump signed an executive order titled “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports” with the goal of banning transgender women from competing in women’s sports.

“With this executive order, the war on women’s sports is over,” the president said during a signing ceremony surrounded by dozens of women and some young girls in athletic uniforms.

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Some critics claim transgender athletes have an unfair advantage in sports, but that's not what the research shows.

While research is limited and ongoing, a 2017 review in the peer-reviewed journal Sports Medicine found "no direct or consistent research" showing trans people have an athletic advantage.

A more recent October 2023 review of the research concluded that sex differences do develop following puberty, but many are "reduced, if not erased, over time by gender affirming hormone therapy."

Physical attributes that could work in a trans girl's favor, like height or limb length, for example, appear to be "less malleable," the study said, but it also pointed out that there are no efforts to restrict cisgender athletes who are taller than average or exceptionally gifted physically in any other way.

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The executive order is two-pronged, leaning on compliance with Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities that receive funding from the federal government, as well as federal engagement with the private sector.

Ahead of the signing, a White House official said that the new action would take the opposite position on Title IX from the Biden administration, which established a rule that schools are violating Title IX when they ban transgender students from participating on sports teams.

The Trump administration's position on Title IX, the official previously said, is "if you're going to have women's sports, if you're going to provide opportunities for women, then they have to be equally safe, equally fair, and equally private opportunities, and so that means that you're going to preserve women's sports for women."

The debate on transgender athletes

Thomas became the first transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division I title in 2022 after finishing first in the women's 500-yard freestyle event.

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A former swimmer on the men's team at UPenn, Thomas has come to personify the ongoing debate on trans women's participation in sports and the balance between inclusion and fair play.

Thomas previously told the SwimSwam podcast she realized she was trans the summer of 2018, but kept it to herself, wary that coming out would take away her ability to swim.

“The very simple answer is that I’m not a man,” she told Sports Illustrated in March. “I’m a woman, so I belong on the women’s team. Trans people deserve that same respect every other athlete gets.”

In February, three former athletes at UPenn’s women’s swimming program sued the school, the Ivy League Council of Presidents and athletics organizations, claiming they violated federal law to allow Thomas to compete against them.

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Thomas has not commented publicly on the latest lawsuit. Despite her expressed intention to keep swimming competitively after college, Thomas has been barred from international events by the rules of World Aquatics, which only qualify transgender athletes who have not experienced biological puberty.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport denied Thomas’ challenge to the rule, making her ineligible for most elite competitions, including the 2024 Olympics.

CNN’s Nicquel Terry Ellis contributed.

This story has been updated with additional details.

EXHIBIT 5

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

Trump signs executive order to dissolve Department of Education

March 20, 2025

1968 Wharton graduate and President Donald Trump signed an executive order to eliminate the Department of Education on Thursday.

The March 20 federal action will attempt to shut down the department, which manages federal student loans through its Office of Federal Student Aid and funds Penn through grants. The order represented the culmination of Trump's promises to target the department during his second presidential term, including a recently announced 50% reduction to the DOE's workforce that was set to begin on March 21.

"Today, we take a very historic action that was 45 years in the making. In a few moments, I will sign an executive order to begin eliminating the federal Department of Education once and for all," Trump said at the signing ceremony. "We have to get our children educated. We're not doing well with the world of education in this country, and we haven't for a long time."

He added that his administration will take "all lawful steps" to shut down the department "as quickly as possible."

According to a White House fact sheet, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon will be directed to "return education authority to the States," while adding that the federal government will continue to "ensure the effective and uninterrupted delivery of services, programs, and benefits on which Americans rely."

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At a press conference hours before Trump was scheduled to sign the order, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that the Trump administration would only be "greatly reducing the scale and size of the department" rather than shutting it down completely. She reiterated that the "critical functions" of the DOE would continue under the reduced version.

The agency cannot be completely abolished unless Congress enacts legislation modifying the laws that created the department.

"Taxpayers will no longer be burdened with tens of billions of dollars wasted," the fact sheet read, claiming that student performance has not increased proportional to funding for the department.

According to an analysis by The Daily Pennsylvanian, Penn received $29,908,126.83 from the DOE during fiscal year 2024. At the time of publication, it remains unclear what will happen to funds previously allocated to Penn by the department during the current fiscal year.

In the fact sheet, the White House also stated that "progressive social experiments and obsolete programs" will be removed as the department is terminated. The White House has not made it clear which of the department's responsibilities will be delegated to other federal agencies or eliminated altogether.

"Programs or activities receiving any remaining Department of Education funds will not advance DEI or gender ideology," the fact sheet read.

On Feb. 14, the department published a letter threatening to withhold funding from schools and universities that did not eliminate their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Penn responded to the federal action by

stripping DEI policies, programs, and initiatives across its four undergraduate and 12 graduate schools.

The White House announced that it would freeze $175 million in federal funding received by Penn on March 20 in a move that rebuked Penn for allowing 2022 Engineering graduate and transgender woman Lia Thomas to compete for Penn's women's swimming and diving team.

Amid speculation in February of a possible shutdown of the DOE, Graduate School of Education senior fellow Alan Ruby told the DP that such an action by the Trump administration would "be claimed as a victory, even if all the programs and grants continue."

In a March 3 statement, McMahon wrote that education "ought not to be corrupted by political ideologies, special interests, and unjust discrimination."

"Removing red tape and bureaucratic barriers will empower parents to make the best educational choices for their children," McMahon wrote. "An effective transfer of educational oversight to the states will mean more autonomy for local communities."

Upon McMahon's nomination, Trump said that he wanted her to "put herself out of a job."

"A DOE exists to support the poorest students across our country. Eliminating it will be disruptive and almost certainly end up impeding or ending those services," GSE professor and Board of Advisors Chair of Education Matthew Hartley wrote in a statement to the DP. "Over time that will have a detrimental impact on higher education since we look to K-12 students for the students who eventually attend our institutions."

Staff reporter Anvi Sehgal can be reached at sehgal@thedp.com. At Penn, she studies philosophy, politics, and economics. Follow her on X @anvi_sehgal.

EXHIBIT 6

(Declaration of Ethan Young)

Trump signs executive order to dismantle Education Department

Updated March 20, 2025 at 8:20 p.m. EDT | Published March 20, 2025 at 6:45 a.m. EDT

Hours before President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at closing the Education Department, his press secretary acknowledged that the administration cannot do this on its own. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that the department will not be completely shut down, which would require congressional action, but said a smaller version will continue to administer "critical functions." Trump contradicted his press secretary at the event, saying that major functions of the Education Department would be moved to other agencies.

Live coverage contributors 31

 Sabrina Rodriguez

 Mariana Alfaro

 Justine McDaniel

 Brianna Tucker

 Maegan Vazquez

Cat Zakrz

8:20 p.m. EDT

Trump signs order aimed at increasing domestic production of critical minerals

 Maegan Vazquez

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Thursday aimed at bolstering the extraction and processing of critical minerals in the United States.

Trump's order invokes emergency powers to fast-track and increase mining and processing of minerals. It utilizes the Defense Production Act — which gives the president the power to "shape national defense preparedness programs and to take appropriate steps to maintain and enhance the domestic industrial base" — to accelerate permitting and funding processes for domestic mineral projects.

The order maintains that facilitating a maximum level of domestic mineral production "is imperative for our national security."

In 2022, President Joe Biden invoked the Defense Production Act to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign supply chains and accelerate the administration's efforts to invest in clean energy technology.

Trump, who signed the order privately on Thursday, said at a White House event that the order would "dramatically increase production of critical minerals and rare earths." The president also said the U.S. would sign a mineral agreement with Ukraine — which had been postponed after a contentious Oval Office meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky — "very shortly."

Thursday's order directs Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to "prioritize mineral production and mining-related purposes" over other uses of federal lands. It also authorizes the United States International Development Finance Corporation to develop a plan to establish a "dedicated mineral and mineral production fund for domestic investments."

7:47 p.m. EDT

Education Secretary says she will work with Congress to eliminate the agency



Brianna Tucker

In an interview with Fox News, Education Secretary Linda McMahon said she intends to "work in conjunction with Congress" to achieve the closure of the Department of Education, following President Donald Trump's executive order on Thursday to eliminate the 45-year old agency.

"I can tell you we know that the task ahead certainly has some hurdles, but what my desire is, and what I'm going to be working to do, is to work in conjunction with Congress … . I want Congress to be a partner in this, and I believe they will be," McMahon told Fox News' Bret Baier.

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate to shutter the agency over the years, but it has not received much consideration and congressional leaders have not indicated it is a priority. Any bill to close the agency would require 60 "yes" votes in the Senate, which means at least seven Democrats would have to support it — which observers see as highly unlikely, if not impossible.

But the effort has gained traction for some Republicans, including Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana), who chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. He indicated shortly after Trump signed the executive order that he planned to introduce a bill to eliminate the agency.

“I agree with President Trump that the Department of Education has failed its mission,” Cassidy said in a statement and in a post on X. “Since the Department can only be shut down with congressional approval, I will support the President’s goals by submitting legislation to accomplish this as soon as possible.”

7:19 p.m. EDT



Cat Zakrzewski

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the Trump administration is considering how it could redirect functions of the Education Department to other federal agencies, including an office that enforces federal civil rights laws at schools.

“The Department of Justice already has a civil rights office, and I think that there is an opportunity to discuss with Attorney General [Pam] Bondi about locating some of our civil rights work there,” she told reporters under the West Wing portico. And much like closing the department entirely requires congressional approval, so does moving core functions of the department to other agencies.

6:56 p.m. EDT

Analysis: On concessions to Russia, Trump and Americans are on different pages



Aaron Blake

One of President Donald Trump's chief concerns right now is fulfilling a campaign promise to end the war in Ukraine. It's proving more difficult than he treated it on the trail — he at times promised to end the war immediately — but we're finally at least seeing signs of a potential ceasefire.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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6:17 p.m. EDT

Republican Rep. Lawler condemns closure of lone Social Security

office in district



Brianna Tucker

Rep. Michael Lawler (R-New York) denounced the Social Security Administration's shift to close the lone agency hearing office in his district, calling the move "a slap in the face" to his constituents.

In recent weeks, the agency, which serves millions of elderly and disabled Americans, has closed dozens of regional and local offices as part of a mandate by the Trump administration's U.S. DOGE Service to shrink the size of the federal government.

"The decision to close the only Social Security Hearing Office in the Hudson Valley is a slap in the face to thousands of my constituents who rely on these services," Lawler said in the post on X.

"This office handles over 2,000 backlogged cases and conducts hundreds of in-person hearings every year. Telling my constituents that they now have to travel hours to Lower Manhattan, New Haven, the Bronx, or Goshen is completely unacceptable."

Lawler's post follows an announcement from the agency on Tuesday setting new measures that would require millions of Americans who file for benefits by phone to verify their identity using an online system or provide documentation in person at a field office.

Other shifts at the agency have included the consolidation of programs and the planned termination of nearly 7,000 jobs, prompting sharp criticism from advocates and Democrats.

6:06 p.m. EDT

Sanders says Trump is allying U.S. with authoritarianism



Justine McDaniel

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) urged an audience in Las Vegas not to accept "an authoritarian form of society," saying the country is at a "pivotal moment" in its history.

"For the first time in our 250-year history, we have a president who is turning his back on democracy and allying us with authoritarianism," Sanders said at the first stop of a speaking tour with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York).

“It is not democracy when Musk himself can spend $270 million to help elect Trump and then become the most powerful person in government,” Sanders said.

The pair are framing the Trump administration as a wealth-based oligarchy, arguing that the government is controlled by a small group of the wealthiest individuals. “They are like heroin addicts. They need more and more and more,” Sanders said. “And if they’re destroying Social Security and Medicaid to get what they want, that is what they will do.”

5:34 p.m. EDT

Trump’s new guidance doesn’t legalize segregation. Here’s what changed.



Gaya Gupta

When the government entity that manages federal buildings ordered agencies to drop a long-standing clause from new contracts, it prompted some concern that the Trump administration was trying to legalize segregation. The clause, banned by the General Services Administration last month, prohibits maintaining or using segregated facilities. It made explicit what the Civil Rights Act of 1964 already outlaws — discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex and other identity traits.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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5:06 p.m. EDT

Trump praises his earlier efforts to cut the Education Department



Maegan Vazquez

At a White House ceremony on Thursday focused on an executive order aimed at eliminating the Education Department, President Donald Trump touted the cuts he's already made to the agency as well as across the federal government.

"My administration has initiated a reduction in force, and we're already cutting numbers … we've cut the number of bureaucrats in half," Trump said.

Earlier this month, the Education Department said it was laying off its personnel and also cutting grants and contracts. The staff reductions, at the time, were the largest in department history and of a magnitude rarely contemplated before this administration took office.

Trump, at Thursday's ceremony, resurfaced a gripe he's brought up since being sworn in earlier this year — the large number of buildings in Washington he's seen with signage saying they're occupied by the Education Department.

"As a former real estate person, I will tell you, I ride through the streets of Washington and it says, 'Department of Education,' 'Department of Education.' I said, 'How do you fill those buildings?' It's crazy what's happened over the years," Trump said.

5:03 p.m. EDT

Trump signs executive order to close the Education Dept.



Danielle Douglas-Gabriel

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday to eliminate the Education Department, a 45-year-old federal agency that he said is “doing no good.”

The executive order aims to minimize the federal role in education but stops short of completely closing the department as Trump promised on the campaign trail. Shutting down the agency requires congressional approval, and there is not likely to be enough support in the Senate to make it happen. Trump said he believes there is bipartisan support to close the department and hoped lawmakers would vote for it.

“We’re not doing well with the world of education and we haven’t for a long time,” Trump said Thursday at the signing ceremony, where schoolchildren sat at desks behind him and Republican governors lined the front row. “My administration will take all lawful steps to shut down the department. We’re going to shut it down and shut it down as quickly as possible.”

Trump said his administration would preserve key functions of the department such as administering student loans and providing funding to students with disabilities, but redistribute them to other agencies. Ahead of the signing, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the department would retain those “critical functions.”

Congress must approve any effort to spin out the Education Department’s major functions.

Trump has already taken tremendous steps to weaken the department. His administration has cut nearly half of the department’s 4,100 employees through layoffs, firings and buyouts. It has also closed seven of the agency’s regional civil rights offices and eliminated 131 teams within the department.

4:47 p.m. EDT



Mariana Alfaro

Students seated at desks surrounding President Donald Trump at Thursday's event appeared to sign their own "executive orders" as the president signed his order that aims to dismantle the Education Department.

4:26 p.m. EDT



Cat Zakrzewski

Republican Govs. Gregg Abbott (Texas), Mike Braun (Indiana), Mike DeWine (Ohio), Kim Reynolds (Iowa) and Ron DeSantis (Florida) are seated in the East Room, where they're waiting for President Donald Trump's remarks.

4:20 p.m. EDT



Laura Meckler

The state flags as a backdrop at Thursday's White House event were a piece of symbolism that dovetailed with President Donald Trump's message that education should be handled by the states rather than the federal government. (Education is largely run by states and school boards already.)

4:17 p.m. EDT



Cat Zakrzewski

Students entered the packed East Room, where President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order aimed at dismantling the Education Department. They're sitting at desks in front of state flags.

4:13 p.m. EDT

Why Bukele opened El Salvador's infamous prison to Trump



Mary Beth Sheridan

Nayib Bukele, the president of El Salvador, has emerged as an unlikely protagonist in one of the Trump administration's most audacious acts. Bukele accepted more than 200 Venezuelans deported from the United States last week and locked them up in a draconian prison. With no access to the courts, they are in a legal black hole.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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3:57 p.m. EDT

Billboards targeting GOP lawmakers for funding bill votes taken down after defamation threat



Brianna Tucker

An advertising company in charge of displaying House Democrats' billboards accusing Republicans in competitive districts of voting to cut Medicaid and give tax breaks to Elon Musk took them down after House Republicans' campaign arm sent a cease-and-desist letter on Wednesday.

House Majority Forward, the issue advocacy arm of the Democratic super PAC called House Majority PAC, launched six billboards on Tuesday in vulnerable Republicans' districts, including those of Reps. Gabe Evans (Colorado), Don Bacon (Nebraska), Ryan Mackenzie (Pennsylvania), Monica De La Cruz (Texas), Jen Kiggans (Virginia) and Rob Wittman (Virginia) according to a report by the Washington Examiner.

The billboards, which were announced on Tuesday, claimed the Republicans "voted to cut Medicaid to give billionaires like him tax cuts," referring to Musk, who was also featured on the billboard. Shortly after launch, the National Republican Campaign Committee sent a letter to Lamar Advertising Co., warning it "will be liable for the defamatory messages spread to voters in each district."

The company hasn't responded to a request for comment.

The GOP-led House budget resolution, which narrowly passed in February and that those six Republicans voted for, directed a committee responsible for federal health-care spending to find ways to reduce the deficit by at least $880 billion over the next 10 years. The savings would be used in part to extend President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cut law, and allow for new spending on immigration and national defense without raising the national debt.

The Congressional Budget Office, lawmakers' nonpartisan bookkeeper, released a report earlier this month that stated achieving such savings would be impossible without significant cuts to Medicare, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

In a statement released on Wednesday, NRCC spokesman Mike Marinell said, "This proves what we've been saying all along: Democrats have no winning message so they resort to lies and fearmongering in a disgusting effort to distract voters. The American people aren't buying it, and House Democrats should be ashamed of themselves."

2:59 p.m. EDT

Zelensky pushes back on Trump proposal to take over nuclear plant



Adam Taylor and Serhiy Morgunov

As the United States tries to broker a peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia this week, an unexpected idea has emerged in the talks: potential U.S. control of a key Ukrainian nuclear power plant on the front line of the war with Russia.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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2:22 p.m. EDT

X sues Indian government over censorship, upping U.S. pressure on Modi



Karishma Mehrotra

NEW DELHI — X, the social media company owned by billionaire Elon Musk, sued the Indian government Thursday, accusing it of illegally blocking content on the platform.

The lawsuit alleges that the Indian government created a "censorship portal" last year, enabling government agencies, state authorities and tens of thousands of local police officers to issue takedown orders en masse, violating India's constitution and the Information Technology Act.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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1:28 p.m. EDT

What to know about Trump's plan to abolish the Education Department



Laura Meckler

Since his 2024 presidential campaign, President Donald Trump has been promising to abolish the Education Department, and on Thursday he is set to sign an executive order that will shrink, but not close, the agency.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

Continue reading

12:42 p.m. EDT

Stephen Miller: Judges ruling against Trump are thwarting will of voters



Maegan Vazquez

Stephen Miller, one of Donald Trump's closest advisers at the White House, is escalating the administration's attacks on federal judges who have ruled against the president's recent orders, labeling them as rogue Marxists thwarting the will of American voters.

"The most important commodity in the executive branch is time," Miller, deputy White House chief of staff, wrote Thursday on X. "Americans elect presidents to 4 year terms. These rogue marxist judges — in a furious attempt to thwart the people's will — are trying to take months and years of time away from the executive. It must be stopped."

Trump and billionaire ally Elon Musk, who leads the U.S. DOGE Service, have encouraged Republicans in Congress to pursue the rare step of impeaching federal judges who have ruled against the administration. On Wednesday, Musk referred to the judges' rulings as a "judicial coup."

The judges whom House Republicans have named as targets for impeachment include those who have ruled against the administration's effort to deport alleged Venezuelan gang members, its attempt to enact a sweeping federal spending freeze and its abrupt removal of public health data from federal health agencies' websites in line with an executive order on gender.

12:12 p.m. EDT

Leavitt acknowledges White House can't close Education Dept. on its own



Laura Meckler

As President Donald Trump prepares to sign an executive order aimed at closing the Education Department, his press secretary acknowledged that the administration cannot do this on its own.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that the department will not be completely shut down, which would require congressional action, but said a smaller version will continue to administer "critical functions."

She said those functions included the student loan program, Pell grants, civil rights enforcement and major grant programs of Title I and IDEA, which helps pay the cost of educating students with disabilities. Together, those programs represent the vast majority of what the department does.

"We're greatly reducing the scale and size of the department," she said.

11:54 a.m. EDT

Another senior IRS executive is leaving

Shannon Najmabadi

Another Internal Revenue Service executive is leaving: Heather Maloy, the chief tax compliance officer.

Maloy is retiring Friday and will be replaced temporarily by Edward Killen, head of the tax-exempt and government entities division, she said in a Thursday email to agency staff.

Multiple high-level officials have left the IRS in recent weeks, including the acting commissioner and head of human resources, who said she resisted firing federal employees and was accused of being “insubordinate” to the U.S. DOGE Service before she was removed from her post.

The agency’s acting chief counsel was also demoted.

The chief tax compliance officer oversees the agency’s criminal investigations and business divisions, among others.

The IRS and Treasury Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

11:52 a.m. EDT

Taliban releases American captive George Glezmann



Mariana Alfaro

The Taliban released an American who was being held captive in Afghanistan for 2½ years, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Thursday.

Delta Air Lines mechanic George Glezmann is on his way to be reunited with his wife, Rubio said in a statement. Glezmann was detained by the Taliban in December 2022 while visiting Afghanistan for five days as a tourist, according to a Senate resolution calling for his release and the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, which campaigns for Americans held hostage or wrongly detained abroad.

In his statement, Rubio noted that Glezmann will join former prisoners Ryan Corbett and William McKenty, who were released from Afghanistan on the night of President Donald Trump's inauguration and returned home to their families.

"George's release is a positive and constructive step," Rubio said. "It is also a reminder that other Americans are still detained in Afghanistan. President Trump will continue his tireless work to free ALL."

The secretary also thanked Qatar, saying the country was instrumental in securing Glezmann's release.

11:48 a.m. EDT

How the Justice Department is remaking itself in Trump's image

Jeremy Roebuck, Mark Berman, Perry Stein and Spencer Hsu

Pam Bondi vowed at her confirmation hearing this year that "politics will not play a part" in her time as attorney general.

Now she's leading a Justice Department more visibly aligned with the political agenda of the White House than any in recent history.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

Continue reading ›

11:43 a.m. EDT

IRS informant on Hunter Biden gets senior investigative role at IRS

Shannon Najmabadi

An Internal Revenue Service informant who claimed Justice Department officials slow-walked his investigation into Hunter Biden's taxes was named deputy chief of the IRS's criminal investigations unit on Wednesday.

Gary Shapley and fellow IRS agent Joseph Ziegler testified before Congress about the Biden case in 2023. Both said they were retaliated against and later became witnesses in Republicans' efforts to impeach former president Joe Biden, Hunter Biden's father.

Shapley and Ziegler were named senior advisers within the Treasury Department this week. They will have a "year to investigate the wrongdoing that's going on at the IRS," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a television interview this week.

"How could this Hunter Biden nonsense have happened?" Bessent said in the interview, which was broadcast on Fox Business.

Shapley in his role as deputy chief will oversee more than 2,000 special agents investigating tax fraud and other crimes within the IRS's law enforcement arm, according to the tax agency's release. He joined the agency in 2009.

Hunter Biden pleaded guilty to tax evasion and was found guilty of gun-related charges in separate cases. Joe Biden pardoned his son before he left office.

11:34 a.m. EDT

Hawley to introduce bill to limit reach of district court judges



Mariana Alfaro

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Missouri) said Thursday that he will introduce legislation to restrict local district court judges' ability to issue nationwide injunctions that he said "stymie" President Donald Trump's agenda.

Hawley's move comes after U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg temporarily halted Trump's efforts to deport migrants by plane by invoking the Alien Enemies Act — an 18th-century law previously invoked only during wartime.

Boasberg's move infuriated Trump, who has called for the judge to be impeached.

Planes deporting 137 migrants under the act landed in El Salvador after Boasberg ordered any such flights to return to the United States on Saturday, pending further legal review. The Justice Department argued Monday that none left the United States after his written ruling came through and that, in any case, the court had no jurisdiction once the aircraft flew over international waters.

Hawley, on Wednesday, criticized what his office described as a "blanket overreach of local district court judges in issuing nationwide injunctions that tie the hands of the executive branch."

Speaking to a right-wing podcast, Hawley said district courts don't have the power to "issue an order that binds the executive branch for the entire nation."

"What needs to happen is one of two things: Either the Supreme Court needs to intervene and make clear there's only one court that can issue rules for the whole country, that's the Supreme Court, that's why we only have one of them," he said. "And or, if they won't do that, Congress needs to legislate and make clear that district courts do not have the ability to issue these kinds of injunctions."

Hawley's office did not say when the senator plans to introduce legislation or whether he has co-sponsors.

11:31 a.m. EDT



Cat Zakrzewski

President Donald Trump remotely addressed the Digital Asset Summit in New York on Thursday, as his administration continues to pursue policies favorable to crypto companies and entrepreneurs.

“It’s exciting to watch as you invent the future of finance — right here, it’s going to be right here in the good old USA,” said Trump, an investor in digital assets himself.

10:46 a.m. EDT

Trump ends program millions in China use for internet, worrying Congress



Pranshu Verma

The Trump administration’s move to shut down an internet freedom project that helped millions of people in China access the open web has stirred concern from lawmakers, including Republicans, who argue the nonprofit is a crucial tool to counter the rise of Beijing.

The Open Technology Fund (OTF), launched in 2012, was intended to allow people who live under repressive regimes to circumvent restrictions and access the internet.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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10:34 a.m. EDT

Partial ceasefire comes with warning from Kyiv: Russia breaches deals



Adam Taylor

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a limited ceasefire, which Kyiv said it hoped would lead to a broader peace agreement brokered by the United States. But for Ukraine, a persistent fear lingers over the process: What happens if Russia breaks its word?

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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10:31 a.m. EDT

House Democrats ask for review of DOGE's actions at Homeland

Security Department



Mariana Alfaro

House Democrats on the Homeland Security Committee, led by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Mississippi), requested Thursday that the Government Accountability Office investigate the U.S. DOGE Service's actions at the Department of Homeland Security, including mass firings and contract cancellations.

"Since hijacking the U.S. Digital Service to establish DOGE, Elon Musk's unqualified staff have fanned out across the Federal government," Thompson said in a statement Thursday. "They have embedded themselves within departments and agencies, including DHS, to seize sensitive data, purge civil servants, and gut programs with no regard to the critical services they provide everyday Americans."

In a letter to GAO Comptroller Gene L. Dodaro, the Democrats asked that the GAO assess the legality of any guidance DOGE provided DHS on how to terminate employees. They also asked that the watchdog look into which DHS information systems DOGE accessed and assess the extent to which that access complied with controls.

10:05 a.m. EDT

With talk of a 51st state, a mystery: Why is Trump obsessed with Canada?



Martine Powers

As President Donald Trump argued in recent weeks — for the first time, the third time, the 10th time — to eliminate Canadian sovereignty and convert the country into America's 51st state, messages started arriving in attorney Mitchell Wine's inbox.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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9:43 a.m. EDT

Boxer Imane Khelif not intimidated by Trump, eyes Los Angeles Olympics



Des Bieler

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who won a gold medal at last year's Paris Olympics amid a furor driven by false accusations that she is transgender, said she plans to defend her title at the 2028 Summer Games.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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9:14 a.m. EDT

Analysis: Trump's move to fire Democrats puts FTC's independence in doubt

  Julian Mark and Will Oremus

President Donald Trump's firing Tuesday of the two remaining Democrats on the Federal Trade Commission sparked a flood of concerns and questions from lawmakers, consumer watchdogs and legal experts. Chief among them was whether the FTC — which enforces consumer protection laws and has emerged as Big Tech's primary regulator — has lost its independence.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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8:56 a.m. EDT

Elon Musk, once a tacit backer of DEI, now focuses on anti-White bias

Beth Reinhard, Faiz Siddiqui and Clara Ence Morse

In the spring of 2017, two months after a Black employee sued Tesla and alleged that co-workers frequently called him the n-word with impunity, chief executive Elon Musk sent out a companywide email with the subject line, "Doing the right thing."

Over the next eight years, as he became the richest man in the world, Musk shifted from a Democratic-leaning critic of Donald Trump to a Republican-friendly Trump acolyte.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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8:38 a.m. EDT

Analysis: More than a dozen judges have said Trump and Co. probably broke the law



Aaron Blake

From the start of his second term, President Donald Trump and his administration signaled a willingness — even a *desire* — to flout the law in their quest to overhaul the federal government.

And while the wheels of justice turn slowly, less than two months later, a procession of judges have already ruled that the administration has done exactly that.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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8:17 a.m. EDT

Republican policy plans could undercut EV industry, experts say



Nicolás Rivero

Republican plans to scrap nearly all federal support for electric vehicles could kneecap the nascent industry, auto industry experts say, just when more Americans are considering buying an EV and car companies are planning big investments.

“Everything that’s happening politically couldn’t have happened at a worse time from the point of view of EV adoption,” Ed Kim, president and chief analyst at the car market research firm AutoPacific, said in an interview.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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7:55 a.m. EDT

Trump knocks Federal Reserve for keeping interest rates steady



Sabrina Rodriguez

President Donald Trump renewed his call on Wednesday night for the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates as he criticized the central bank’s decision to keep rates steady amid increased uncertainty over his tariff actions.

“The Fed would be MUCH better off CUTTING RATES as U.S.Tariffs start to transition (ease!) their way into the economy,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. “Do the right thing.”

Trump added: “April 2nd is Liberation Day in America!!!”

That’s the date when Trump has said he will impose new tariffs on most imports, laying the groundwork for an escalation in global economic hostilities. Many economists expect those tariffs will weigh down the economy.

Already, Trump’s tariffs on U.S. trading partners such as Canada and Mexico have sent financial markets into tumult as concerns grow over how prices will increase and worsen inflation in the United States.

Those concerns were on display in the Fed’s decision Wednesday to keep interest rates unchanged. The Fed has continued a cautious approach as Trump’s trade war has begun to thwart the independent central bank’s work to bring inflation down.

Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said during a Wednesday news conference that tariffs are already playing a role in driving up inflation, especially among goods that households and companies purchase.

“Uncertainty around the economic outlook has increased,” the Fed said in a statement.

7:17 a.m. EDT




Meryl Kornfield and Patrick Svitek

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York) are starting a five-city tour of the West on Thursday as part of his “Fighting Oligarchy” campaign. Their first event is scheduled for 4 p.m. Eastern time in Las Vegas.

6:45 a.m. EDT

Analysis: A Trump pick sits tight as House GOP navigates tiny

majority

  Meryl Kornfield and Patrick Svitek

Rep. Elise Stefanik has been in a strange limbo.

The New York Republican is the last Cabinet-level nominee awaiting confirmation since President Donald Trump announced in November he would nominate her as the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Since the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced her nomination in January, Republicans have pumped the brakes on a Senate vote.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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6:31 a.m. EDT

Trump to sign order aimed at closing Education Department

 Laura Meckler

President Donald Trump is set to sign a much-anticipated executive order Thursday aimed at closing the Education Department, the White House said, though administration officials have acknowledged that shuttering the agency would require congressional approval.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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6:15 a.m. EDT

Appeals court to review judge's order barring deportations



Ann Marimow

The influential U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has moved quickly to schedule oral argument for Monday in the battle over the Trump administration's deportation of alleged Venezuelan gang members.

The administration appealed to the D.C. Circuit soon after U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg issued an order Saturday barring the administration from using a controversial wartime authority called the Alien Enemies Act to deport migrants without the usual due process.

The Justice Department has questioned the district court's jurisdiction to issue the order, calling it a "massive, unauthorized imposition on the Executive's authority." And the government took the unusual step of calling for Boasberg to be removed from the case, accusing him of micromanaging a sensitive national security matter.

Trump and his allies went further, calling for Boasberg to be impeached. That prompted a rare rebuke from Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who defended the independence of the judiciary in a brief statement Tuesday.

The Justice Department's appeal will be reviewed next week by a panel made up of three judges nominated by presidents of both parties: Judges Karen Henderson, Patricia Millett and Justin Walker.

6:00 a.m. EDT

Amtrak CEO abruptly resigns as Trump administration threatens funding cuts



Brianna Tucker

Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner announced in a statement Wednesday he will step down from the nation's passenger and freight rail company as the Trump administration targets funding for mass transit systems and other transportation initiatives across the nation.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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