



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 1-3, 2025:** Trump fired then-CFPB Director Rohit Chopra, replacing him with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.
- **February 8, 2025:** Russell Vought was made acting CFPB Director.
- **February 9, 2025:** Vought formally notified the Federal Reserve that the Bureau would decline its legally mandated quarterly funding transfer.
- **February 10, 2025:** Vought directed CFPB employees to “not come into the office” or “perform any work tasks” and paused all investigations.
- **February 12, 2024:** Around 73 probationary CFPB staffers were terminated.
- **February 13, 2025:** Approximately 100 career staff were laid off.
- **February 14, 2025:** A federal judge temporarily blocked Vought from terminating more employees following a lawsuit by the National Treasury Employees Union.
- **March 15, 2025:** At the CFPB's own request, a federal court vacated the rule capping credit card late fees at \$8. Major issuers announced plans to revert to fees of \$30-\$41. Consumer advocates estimated the move would extract an additional \$10 billion annually from consumers.
- **April 17, 2025:** The CFPB issued layoff notices to around 1,400 employees after a federal appeals court allowed the reduction in force efforts to move forward. Simultaneously, the administration locked a majority of the CFPB's workforce out of their offices and revoked their IT credentials.
- **April 18, 2025:** A federal judge again ordered the CFPB to halt terminations, stating the agency was “thumbing their nose” at her court.
- **August 15, 2025:** The DC Circuit Court of Appeals allowed the mass layoffs to move forward, though a NTEU request for an en banc hearing has held up implementation.
- **December 30, 2025:** A federal judge rejected CFPB's attempt, under Vought's leadership, to declare the Bureau's funding mechanism illegal.
- **January 9, 2026:** Vought complied with the ruling and requested \$145 million from the Federal Reserve to fund the CFPB.

Impacts on Capacity

The biggest cuts to CFPB personnel occurred within its enforcement and supervision divisions. For a more detailed accounting of DOGE's actions across financial agencies, see Revolving Door Project's Cuts to Corporate Enforcement Capacity tracker.

DOGE employed personnel with direct conflicts of interest with the CFPB's regulatory authority. Gavin Kliger, a 25-year-old DOGE software engineer, was given a key role in managing CFPB system access despite owning over \$365,000 in stock of companies



like Apple and Tesla—firms with significant interests in the digital payment systems the CFPB was slated to regulate.

The targeted reductions in force (RIFs) caused a catastrophic brain drain, with the [most significant losses](#) among senior examiners and attorneys specializing in complex financial instruments and fair lending analytics. The RIFs also reduced the digital services team, the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of Civil Rights to one employee each, effectively dismantling them. With the vast majority of its staff subjected to layoffs, the CFPB will be unable to perform any of its key oversight functions.

Material Harms

As a result of DOGE's raid on the CFPB and the subsequent dismantling of key market oversight functions, consumers now face direct financial harm and openly predatory behavior from corporations.

The most immediate impact was the explicit blocking of financial restitution for consumers victimized by corporate malfeasance. The [revocation](#) of the credit card late fee rule alone represented a transfer of approximately \$10 billion annually from American households to major financial institutions. Furthermore, the CFPB under Vought [dismissed](#) a \$60 million order against Toyota Motor Credit, waiving roughly \$48 million in consumer redress. Former CFPB Director Eric Halperin [said](#) the CFPB now "wants to actively reward lawbreakers."

The paralysis of the CFPB [degraded](#) the fundamental integrity of the consumer financial marketplace. The CFPB's consumer complaint database became a black hole, as around 70,000 complaints went unaddressed in the week after Vought's stop-work order. This, in turn, created an immense backlog of complaints that required a manual review, including around 75 complaints regarding imminent foreclosures. This void not only harmed the people in need of rapid assistance, but signaled to bad actors that predatory practices were less likely to be detected or punished.

Since Vought took over, the Bureau has only filed one enforcement action. At the same time, Vought unilaterally ended or voided [scores](#) of enforcement cases and actions. One beneficiary of such canceled actions was [Navy Federal Credit Union](#), who had been on the hook for \$80 million in refunds after illegally charging overdraft fees.

Given the absence of police on the banking beat, it seems inevitable that many people will be taken advantage of by amoral financial services companies.



Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Rohit Chopra:** Senate-confirmed CFPB Director who was systematically sidelined before being terminated in February. Operational control of the Bureau was transferred to Russell Vought as Acting Director, who immediately began implementing the DOGE-aligned plan to dismantle the agency's core functions.
- **Lorelei Salas:** Supervision director of the CFPB who resigned citing Vought's stop-work directive, saying, "I do not believe it is appropriate, nor lawful, to stop all supervisory activities and examinations."
- **Eric Halperin:** CFPB enforcement director who resigned after Vought's directives made it so he could not "effectively serve" in his role to protect consumers.
- **Gabriel O'Malley:** CFPB Deputy enforcement director for policy and strategy who resigned after enforcement staff were placed on administrative leave, saying the Bureau's work was "marked by silence and uncertainty".
- **Mark McArdle:** CFPB assistant director for mortgage markets who resigned shortly after Vought's takeover.
- **Michael Salemi:** Principal deputy enforcement director of CFPB who resigned in December 2025. Salemi told CFPB staff he saw "no path to an effective future enforcement program at the Bureau."

DOGE Agents

- **Russell Vought**
- **Gavin Kliger**