



# Department of Labor (DOL)

## Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** A group of unions, including the American Federation of Government Employees, filed a lawsuit to block DOGE from accessing the Department of Labor's data systems. The complaint alleged that Department of Labor leadership told employees to grant access to any systems DOGE asked for without pushback.
- **February 7, 2025:** A federal judge declined to block DOGE's access, ruling that the plaintiffs did not establish standing.
- **February 25, 2025:** A memo from the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) stated that the office will reduce staff from 479 to 50 workers.
- **March 10, 2025:** DOGE announced the termination of at least 29 leases for US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) offices, and 11 leases for Occupational Safety and Health Administration offices. The administration later reversed the MSHA closures in May.
- **March 29, 2025:** A court filing in *AFL-CIO v. Department of Labor* revealed that DOGE agent Marko Elez was given read-only access to Department of Labor databases.
- **April 2, 2025:** DOGE announced it would be shutting down 87 Department of Labor offices and terminating 96 contracts for "trainings, software, and other services."
- **April 17, 2025:** Department of Labor Chief Intelligence Office Thomas Shedd reportedly aimed to reduce the workforce of DOL's Office of the CIO by 30%. While not officially a DOGE member, Shedd was working in government while on a leave of absence from Tesla.
- **May 2, 2025:** DOGE implemented a new "Defend the Spend" requirement for grant officers and grantees to provide an explanation every time funds are allocated.
- **May 3, 2025:** DOL lost about 20% of its workforce to DOGE's deferred resignation program according to sources inside the agency.

## Impacts on Capacity

The dramatic cuts to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), which served as a watchdog over the hiring and compliance practices of companies that contract with the government, kneecapped its operations. Audits into discrimination claims were halted and the office shifted its focus to solely monitoring for discrimination against disabled workers and veterans. Among the terminated employees were "labor economists and statisticians, who were charged with conducting systemic statistical analyses."



## Material Harms

In closing Labor Department offices, DOGE left communities without a federal presence to oversee their rights to safe workplaces and wage protections. Louisiana, for example, lost its only Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office, which was particularly important given the state does not have its own workplace safety agency. Louisiana was ranked as the sixth most dangerous state in terms of workplace fatalities.

DOGE cancelled nearly 100 Department of Labor contracts, many of which were grants originating from the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. The grants sought to improve labor conditions and prevent exploitative labor practices that both hurt the workers in other countries and undercut the competitiveness of US companies. Furthermore, the added “Defend the Spend” requirement on other grants could slow down the disbursement of funds that go to job training and apprenticeship programs.

## Notable Names

### *Ousted Leadership*

- **Sydney Rose:** The Department of Labor’s Chief Human Capital Officer, who had worked in the government for over 40 years, accepted DOGE’s deferred resignation offer.
- **Troy Finnegan:** The Department of Labor’s assistant secretary for administration and management resigned less than a month after his appointment. The resignation came just days before the administration’s deadline to submit plans for mass layoffs.

### *DOGE Agents*

- **Sam Beyda**
- **Derek Geissler**
- **Miles Collins**