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Trump, Aided By Congressional Republicans And His Appointed Judges, Roll Back Biden-Era Policies That Would Have Saved Consumers Over $18 Billion While Americans Continue To Get Crushed by Trump Tariffs

Summary: On September 23, 2025, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) warned that President Trump's tariffs were severely contracting the U.S. and global economies. Since taking office, Trump has raised the U.S. effective tariff rate to a staggering 19.5%, *the highest rate* the country has seen since 1933. As part of the OECD report, there is concern that the U.S. economy's growth will slow to just 1.8% by the end of 2025. To put that into perspective, last year the economy grew by 2.8%.

This comes as grocery prices are up a staggering 29% since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI) found groceries are up 0.6% from July to August 2025. This includes the price of beef, which rose by 2.7%, and is up 51% since 2020.

As the economy staggers, consumers are starting to pull back on discretionary spending as costs continue to rise. An August 2025 survey found two-thirds of American consumers were spending less during the back-to-school season, and planned to spend less during the holidays. Notably, the Budget Lab at Yale University projects that Trump's tariffs will cost the average American household **$2,300 in lost income**, per September 2025 data.

In addition to hurting consumers' pockets at the check-out line, the Trump Administration, aided by congressional Republicans and Trump-appointed judges, has rolled back numerous Biden-era rulemakings that aimed to protect consumers from corporate greed and financial malpractice. **These rollbacks are costing American consumers at least $18 billion in lost savings, as well as removing protections against predatory airlines and the use of medical debt harming the credit of millions of Americans**:

- In May 2025, congressional Republicans passed a Congressional Review Act (CRA) vote overturning a Biden-era rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) aimed at reining in excessive overdraft fees projected to save consumers **$5 billion in annual overdraft fees**. Senate Banking Chair Tim Scott (R-SC) had previously blasted the CFPB for alleged "midnight rulemaking" and praised industry groups that backed the CRA.

- In September 2025, the Trump-Department of Transportation (DOT) announced it would rescind Biden-era rulemaking requiring airlines to compensate consumers for significant flight delays. These types of rules are already adopted by the EU and UK, and the agency claimed the move was "consistent with department and administration priorities," receiving industry praise. Biden-DOT officials had previously helped **consumers see $4 billion in refunds**.

- In September 2025, the Trump Administration announced it would stop defending a Biden-era Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rule barring businesses from using noncompete agreements to suppress wages and competition in the market from a coalition lawsuit brought by the U.S. Chamber and other industry groups. This move came despite the administration securing its own victory after the largest pet cremation business was found to have "unlawfully suppressed competitors' entry" into the market.

- In April 2025, Trump-appointed Judge Mark Pittman vacated the Biden-CFPB's credit card late fee rule, **estimated to save American families over $10 billion a year in late fees**. Pittman vacated the rule the day after the Trump-CFPB agreed with legal arguments presented by industry trade groups and requested the rule be vacated.

- In July 2025, Trump-appointed Judge Sean Jordan vacated the Biden-CFPB's medical debt rule **removing $49 billion in medical debt from the credit reports of 15 million Americans**. The Biden-CFPB had estimated the rule **would have raised the average credit scores of consumers with medical debt by an average of 20 points, helping 22,000 additional mortgages get approved a year.** The rule's repeal followed a pattern of behavior from the Trump administration, after it stopped defending the rule, agreeing with industry arguments from the Cornerstone Credit Union League and the Consumer Data Industry Association, and urged the rule to be vacated.

Meanwhile, an August 2025 report from former CFPB Head of Enforcement Eric Halperin, found that **22 pending enforcement actions** had been dropped by Trump's CFPB, as **over $3 billion in consumer redress** could be jeopardized when taking into account dropped or reversed actions and settlements. To put this into perspective, *only one enforcement action* had been dropped by the CFPB in its 14-year history before Trump's second term.

In September 2025, The Organization For Economic Cooperation And Development (OECD) Warned That President Trump's Tariff Policies Will Significantly Slow Down U.S. Economic Activity—The U.S. Effective Tariff Rate Of 19.5% Is The Highest Since 1933—This Will Slow Down Growth To Just 1.8% By End Of 2025, Meanwhile Consumers Are Pulling Back Spending Due To Uncertainty And Rising Costs At The Grocery Store—Up Nearly 30% Since Before The COVID-19 Pandemic.

On September 23, 2025, The Organization For Economic Cooperation And Development (OECD) Warned In A Report That Trump's Tariff Activity Has Pushed The U.S. And Other Global Economies "Toward Slowed Economic Growth" And "Increasing Uncertainty,"—Consumers Have Pulled Back Spending As The U.S. Effective Tariff Rate Is At Its Highest Level Since 1933 At 19.5%.

On September 23, 2025, The Organization For Economic Cooperation And Development (OECD) Released A Report That Showed President Trump's Tariffs Are Pushing The U.S. And Other Major Economies "Toward Slowed Economic Growth" And "Increasing Uncertainty," With Consumers Starting To Pull-Back On Spending. "President Trump's efforts to reshape global trade with punitive tariff policies are pushing the United States and major economies toward slower economic growth, increasing uncertainty, and cooling investment and trade, according to projections released Tuesday. The full impact of the higher U.S. tariffs is still playing out, but effects are beginning to be felt by American consumers, who are starting to curb spending, and in labor markets in countries where the duties have led companies to shed workers or curb hiring, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, an intergovernmental group based in Paris, said in its latest outlook." [The New York Times, 09/23/25]

The OECD Projects The Global Economy Will Only Grow By 3.2% Compared To 3.3% In 2024, Only Saved By An Uptick In Manufacturing. "The global economy is forecast to grow 3.2 percent this year, compared with 3.3 percent in 2024. The estimate is a touch larger than previously expected because America's trading partners ramped up manufacturing to get their goods across the U.S. border before the tariffs kicked in, the organization said." [The New York Times, 09/23/25]

The OECD Also Said, "The New Overall Effective U.S. Tariff Rate — Now At An Estimated 19.5 Percent, The Highest Since 1933 — Has Slowed Economic And Trade Activity." "Mr. Trump imposed tariffs, including duties of up to 50 percent on foreign steel and aluminum, on once-close trading partners like the European Union, Canada and India, as well as on longtime rivals like China. The new overall effective U.S. tariff rate — now at an estimated 19.5 percent, the highest since 1933 — has slowed economic and trade activity." [The New York Times, 09/23/25]

The OECD Then Warned That If The Full Brunt Of Tariffs Continues To Hit Supply Chains And The Labor Market, Global Economic Growth Will Slow To 2.9% In 2026, With The U.S. Economy Projected To Slow To 1.8% By The End Of 2025.

Meanwhile, Global Economic Growth Is Projected To Slow To 2.9% In 2026 As The Full Brunt Of Tariffs Hits Supply Chains And Labor Markets, And The OECD Warned The U.S. Economy Growth Is Projected To Slow To 1.8% By End Of 2025, Lower Than 2.8% In 2024. "As the full brunt of the tariffs ricochets through supply chains and labor markets and changes consumer behavior, global growth will slow to 2.9 percent in 2026, the economic organization said. [...] But private consumption growth in the United States has already started to weaken, and economic momentum will be 'more than offset by higher tariff rates, as well as a drop in net immigration,' the organization said. The U.S. economy is projected to slow to 1.8 percent this year from 2.8 percent in 2024, and cool further to 1.5 percent in 2026." [The New York Times, 09/23/25]

A September 2025 Survey From The Federal Reserves Of Richmond And Atlanta Also Found That CFOs Blame Tariffs For A Third Of Price Hikes—If Companies Were Not Raising Prices By A Third, Inflation Would Be At The 2% Target Of The Federal Reserve, As CFOs Project Tariffs Will Make Up About A Quarter Of Price Increases In 2026.

September 2025: A Survey From The Richmond And Atlanta Federal Reserve Banks Found That CFOs Blame Tariffs For One-Third Of Price Hikes So Far In 2025. "Tariffs are fueling a significant chunk of price hikes across the economy, according to a survey of executives released Wednesday. Chief financial officers estimate tariffs are to blame for about one-third of their companies' price growth this year, according to The CFO Survey issued by Duke University and the Federal Reserve Banks of Richmond and Atlanta." [CNN, 09/24/25]

To Put This Into Perspective, If Inflation Were One-Third Lower, It Would Be At The Federal Reserve's Target Of 2%. "That's nothing to sneeze at. If the latest inflation reading of 2.9% were a third lower, it would be essentially right at 2% – the level the Federal Reserve targets for price increases that are neither too hot or too cold." [CNN, 09/24/25]

The Survey Also Found That Tariffs Will Not Be A "One-Time Price Adjustment" As Polled CFOs Project They Will Account For A Quarter Of Price Increases In 2026. "The survey also undermines the argument that tariffs will simply be a one-time price adjustment. CFOs estimate tariffs will account for about a quarter of price increases next year, too." CNN, 09/24/25]

According To The Yale University Budget Lab, Trump's Tariffs Will Increase The "Price Level"—The Average Of Current Prices Across The Entire Economy—By 1.7%, This In Turn Will Cost The Average American Household $2,300 In Income Loss During 2025.

September 2025: A Review From The Yale University Budget Lab Projected That The "Price Level" From President Trump's Tariffs Will Increase 1.7% In The Short-Term And Will Cost The Average American Household $2,300 In Income Loss Under The Assumption The Federal Reserve Does Not React To Tariffs. "Overall Price Level & Distributional Effects: The price level from all 2025 tariffs rises by 1.7% in the short-run under the baseline scenario, the equivalent of an average per household income loss of $2,300 in 2025$, in the baseline scenario. This assumes the Federal Reserve does not react to tariffs and so the real income adjustment comes primarily through prices rather than nominal incomes; if the Federal Reserve reacted, the adjustment could in part come in the form of lower nominal incomes. Annual pre-substitution losses for households at the bottom of the income distribution are $1,300. The post-substitution price increase settles at 1.4%, a $1,900 loss per household." [The Budget Lab at Yale, 09/04/25]

- **According To Investopedia, The "Price Level Is The Average Of Current Prices Across The Entire Spectrum Of Goods And Services Produced In An Economy."** "Price level is the average of current prices across the entire spectrum of goods and services produced in an economy. In more general terms, price level refers to the price or cost of a good, service, or security in the economy." [Investopedia, accessed 09/25/25]

- **Price Levels Are Thus A Good Indicator Of The Purchasing Power Of Consumers As Well As For Goods And Services In Supply And Demand Chains. "**In economics, price levels are a key indicator and are closely watched by economists. They play an important role in the purchasing power of consumers as well as the sale of goods and services. It also plays an important part in the supply-demand chain." [Investopedia, accessed 09/25/25]

By August 2025, A Striking Two-Thirds Of American Consumers Said They Planned To Pull Back On Discretionary Spending On Purchases Such As Apparel, Home Decor, And Beauty—This Notably Included A Shift From Middle-Income Shoppers Who Normally Dictate Holiday And Back-To-School Spending.

August 2025: Two-Thirds Of American Consumers Were Reported To Have Cut Back On Discretionary Spending Ahead Of The Back-To-School And Holiday Seasons, According To Recent Polling, Including Middle-Income Suburbanites Who Joined Low-Income Shoppers. "Two-thirds of American consumers are cutting back on discretionary spending as tariff concerns reshape retail landscapes ahead of the critical back-to-school and holiday seasons. Middle-income suburbanites are now joining traditionally price-sensitive lower-income households in the high-concern zone. Retailers face a fundamental shift that threatens discretionary categories from apparel to home décor while creating opportunities for value-focused retailers in the discount and warehouse club sectors." [Forbes, 08/15/25]

This Shift Represented More Than Just Concerns About Inflation As Coresight Research Analyst Aditya Kaushik Said It Instead "Indicates A Preemptive Behavioral Shift Driven By Expectations Of Higher Prices." "The shift represents more than typical inflation concerns. Despite only 38% of surveyed consumers expecting tariffs to negatively impact them personally, widespread behavioral changes are already underway. 'This indicates a preemptive behavioral shift driven by expectations of higher prices rather than actual price changes,' stated Aditya Kaushik, analyst for Coresight Research. The disconnect between perception and direct impact signals a consumer psychology that could reshape retail performance through the fourth quarter." [Forbes, 08/15/25]

The Most Striking Shift In Consumer Behavior Did Not Come From Traditionally Lower-Income Households, Instead 66% Of Consumers Stated That They Will Spend Less This Year, With Two-Thirds Of Consumers Expected to Cut Back On Spending On Purchases Such As Apparel, Home Decor,

Beauty And Department Stores. “The most striking shift in consumer behavior is not coming from traditionally price-sensitive lower-income households but emerging from middle-income suburbanites who typically drive holiday spending. Sixty-six percent of consumers state they will spend less this year, with two-thirds of affected consumers cutting back on discretionary purchases across apparel, beauty, home décor, and department store sectors." [Forbes, 08/15/25]

And In September 2025, The Prices Of Groceries Climbed 0.6% From July To August, The Largest Monthly Jump Since October 2022 Per Labor Of Statistics Data, This Includes 2.7% For Beef While Overall Groceries Are Up A Staggering 29% Since Before COVID.

September 2025: Grocery Prices Are Steadily Rising "In Part Due To Inflation And Tariffs" As Grocery Prices Rose By 0.6% From July To August, The Fastest Monthly Rate Change Since October 2022 Per Labor Of Statistics Data. "Grocery prices are on the rise – in part due to inflation and tariffs – and relief does not appear to be coming anytime soon. Food prices at grocery stores rose by 0.6% from July to August, the fastest monthly rate change for groceries since October of 2022, according to the latest Consumer Price Index from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics." [USA Today, 09/23/25]

Groceries Are Also 29% More Expensive Than Before The COVID-19 Pandemic, With The Latest Price Of Beef Up 2.7% From July To August 2025—Wells Fargo Agricultural Analyst Michael Swanson Said "It's A Big-Ticket Item For A Lot Of Households, So When It Jumps, It Pulls The Whole Index Up With It." "Groceries are also 29% higher since before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to CPI statistics. [...] The latest CPI price of beef showed a 2.7% increase from July to August. 'Beef is driving the spike in grocery prices right now,' Michael Swanson, Chief Agricultural Economist at Wells Fargo Agri-Food Institute told USA TODAY. 'It’s a big-ticket item for a lot of households, so when it jumps, it pulls the whole index up with it.’" [USA Today, 09/23/25]

Staples Like Coffee Have Also Jumped Due To A 50% Tariff Placed On Brazil, Meanwhile 53% Of Americans Surveyed In August Said That Grocery Costs Were A "'Major Source' Of Stress."

Tariffs Are Hurting Staples Including Coffee, With 50% Tariffs On Brazil, A Major Supplier To The U.S., Driving Up Costs For Americans. "Coffee prices have also been increasing due to drought conditions in Brazil. The country provides about 30% of the U.S. coffee supply, and now has been subject to a 50% tariff, said Ortega. While the U.S. is a major producer of beef, there is also a large imported market for what's called 'lean trimmings' of beef from countries like Brazil and Australia, Ortega said." [USA Today, 09/23/25]

Meanwhile, Recent Polling From August 2025 Found That 53% Of Americans Surveyed Said "The Cost Of Groceries Was 'A Major Source' Of Stress." "The rising cost of groceries has rattled a vast majority of U.S. adults, according to a poll released in August by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. More than half of respondents surveyed in July, or 53%, said the cost of groceries was a 'major source' of stress." [USA Today, 09/23/25]

In May 2025, Congressional Republicans Passed A Congressional Review Act (CRA) Vote That Overturned A Biden-Era CFPB Rule That Aimed To Reel In Excessive Overdraft Fees, Projected To Save Consumers $5 Billion In Annual Overdraft Fees.

In May 2025, President Trump Signed A Congressional Review Act (CRA) That Rescinded Rulemaking From The Biden-CFPB Lowering Overdraft Fees Levied Against Consumers.

On May 09, 2025, President Trump Signed A Congressional Review Act (CRA) Introduced By Senate Banking Committee Chair Tim Scott That Rescinded A Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Rule That Capped Overdraft Fees Calling The Rule "Price Controls." "Today, President Trump signed into law Chairman Tim Scott's (R-S.C.) Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to overturn the Biden Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) final rule imposing price controls on overdraft fees. The rule would have resulted in reduced access to credit and important financial services for hardworking Americans." [U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 05/09/25]

The CRA Was The Latest Attack By Republican Members, Including Senate Banking Chair Tim Scott (R-SC), Who Urged The CFPB To Stop Rulemaking Activity Following The 2024 Elections And Accused The Agency Of "Midnight Rulemaking."

Chairman Scott Blasted The Biden CFPB For Continuing Rulemaking After The 2024 Election And Criticized The Overdraft Rule By Claiming That Former Director Rohit Chopra Was Engaging In "Midnight Rulemaking." "On November 17, 2024, Chairman Scott sent a letter to the White House calling on the Biden administration's financial and housing regulators to cease all rulemaking activity. At a December 2024 committee hearing, Chairman Scott called out Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Rohit Chopra for ignoring his demands to pause rulemaking and pressing forward with an aggressive agenda. On December 12, 2024, after the CFPB finalized the overdraft rule, Chairman Scott released a statement opposing the rule and Director Chopra's midnight rulemaking." [U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 05/09/25]

Scott Submitted His CRA In February 2025 Along With House Counterpart French Hill—In The Release, Scott Cited Industry Groups Including The Consumer And American Banking Associations, As Well As America's Credit Union And The Bank Policy Institute, That Urged For The Rule's Repeal. "On February 13, 2025, Chairman Scott and House Financial Services Committee Chairman French Hill (R-Ark.) introduced Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions to overturn the rule. Key stakeholders, including the Consumer Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the American Bankers Association, America's Credit Unions, and the Bank Policy Institute, voiced their support for the effort." [U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 05/09/25]

The CFPB Rule Would Have Saved Consumers $5 Billion In Annual Overdraft Fees By Simply Capping Overdraft Fees For Large Banks And Credit Unions With $10 Billion Or More In Assets.

The Rule Overturned By Republicans Would Have Simply Required Large Banks And Credit Unions With $10 Billion Or More In Assets To Cap Overdraft Fees At $5 Or What Is Determined To Be Sufficient To Cover Their Costs Or Losses And Was Expected To Save Consumers $5 Billion In Annual Overdraft Fees. "The agency's final rule on overdraft fees applies to the banks and credit unions with more than $10 billion in assets that dominate the U.S. market. The reforms will allow large banks several options to manage their overdraft lending program: they can choose to charge $5; to offer overdraft as a courtesy by charging a fee that covers no more than costs or losses; or continue to extend profit-generating overdraft loans if they comply with longstanding lending laws, including disclosing any applicable interest rate. The final rule is expected to add up to $5 billion in annual overdraft fee savings to consumers, or $225 per household that pays overdraft fees." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 12/12/24]

In September 2025, The Trump-Department Of Transportation (DOT) Announced It Would Rescind Biden-Era Rulemaking That Would Have Required Airlines To Compensate Consumers For Significant Flight Delays, With The Agency Claiming The Move, Praised By Industry, Was "Consistent With Department And Administration Priorities."

In September 2025, The Trump-Transportation Department (DOT) Announced It Would Rescind Rulemaking From The Biden Administration That Required Airlines To Compensate Passengers For Significant Delays With The Trump Administration Claiming The Move Was "Consistent With Department And Administration Priorities, "Charging The Biden Administration Of Exceeding Statutory Limits.

September 2025: The Trump Administration Said It Would Roll Back Biden-Era Rulemaking Requiring Airlines To Award Passengers With Cash Compensation When Flights Are Significantly Delayed, Including $200 For Domestic Delays Of At Least Three Hours And Up To $775 For More Significant Delays. "President Donald Trump's administration said on Thursday it would drop a plan by his predecessor to require airlines to pay passengers cash compensation when U.S. flight disruptions are caused by carriers, in a setback for aviation consumer advocates. In December, the U.S. Department of Transportation under then-President Joe Biden sought public comment on the rulemaking process about whether airlines should be required to pay $200 to $300 for domestic delays of at least three hours and up to $775 for longer delays. U.S. airlines sharply criticized the proposal first made by Biden in May 2023." [Reuters, 09/04/25]

A Trump White House Document Posted To The Transportation Department Website Argued The Move To Rescind The Rulemaking Was "Consistent With Department And Administration Priorities," Meanwhile, Countries Including Canada, Brazil, The U.K. And Those In The European Union Have Rules To Compensate Consumers For Delays. "The White House said in a document posted on Thursday that the Transportation Department plans to withdraw, the notice 'consistent with department and administration priorities.' Airlines in the U.S. must refund passengers for canceled flights, but are not required to compensate customers for delays. The European Union, Canada, Brazil and Britain all have airline delay compensation rules." [Reuters, 09/04/25]

A Transportation Spokesperson Doubled Down On The Move, Claiming "Some Of The Rules Proposed Or Adopted By The Previous Administration Went Beyond What Congress Has Required By Statute." "'Some of the rules proposed or adopted by the previous administration went beyond what Congress has required by statute, and we intend to reconsider those extra-statutory requirements,' a Transportation Department spokesperson told The New York Times." [The Hill, 09/05/25]

The Move Received Significant Praise From Industry, With Airlines For America Saying That "We Are Encouraged By This Department Of Transportation Reviewing Unnecessary And Burdensome Regulations."

Airlines For America—A Trade Group Whose Members Include Delta, United, And American—Praised The Administration's Move, Stating, "We Are Encouraged By This Department Of Transportation Reviewing Unnecessary And Burdensome Regulations." "The reversal was endorsed by Airlines for America, a trade group that represents Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, American Airlines and others. 'We are encouraged by this Department of Transportation reviewing unnecessary and burdensome regulations that exceed its authority and don't solve issues important to our customers,' the group said in a statement Thursday, according to multiple news outlets." [The Hill, 09/05/25]

Meanwhile, Delays And Cancellations Significantly Pose Hardship And Financial Burden To Consumers, As Over 15 Million Passengers Had Flights Cancelled From July 2021 To April 2022, With 116 Million Seeing Significant Delays, And Despite The Industry Receiving Over $54 Billion In Taxpayer Bailouts During COVID, Consumers Receive Little To No Compensation Despite Over 60% Of Delays Being Airline-Caused.

"Cancellations And Lengthy Flight Delays Can Pose Significant Hardship, Stress, And Financial Cost To Travelers," As A Government Accountability Office (GAO) Found Flight Cancellations From July 2021 To April 2022 Affected Over 15 Million Passengers And Delays Impacted Over 116 Million—Airlines' Data Submitted To DOT Found Over 60% Of Three Or More Hour Delays Were Airline-Caused. "Cancellations and lengthy flight delays can pose significant hardship, stress, and financial cost to travelers. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that flight cancellations from July 2021 through April 2022 potentially affected over 15 million passengers and flight delays potentially affected over 116 million passengers. According to data from U.S. airlines submitted to DOT, in both 2022 and 2023, over 60% of three-hour or longer domestic flight delays were airline-caused." [Department of Transportation, 12/05/24]

Meanwhile, The U.S. Airlines Industry Received Over $54 Billion In Taxpayer Bailouts During The COVID-19 Pandemic. "U.S. airlines received $54 billion in taxpayer bailouts during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping the industry recover and enjoy record travel demand. While no U.S. airline provides cash compensation to passengers for airline-caused disruptions, following DOT actions, several airlines must provide at least $50 in credits or vouchers." [Department of Transportation, 12/05/24]

In December 2024, The Biden Administration Said It "Helped Oversee The Return Of Almost $4 Billion In Refunds And Reimbursements Owed To Airline Passengers," Which Included An Estimated $600 Million Returned To Consumers Harmed By Southwest's 2022 Holiday Meltdown.

December 2024: Biden's DOT Said It "Helped Oversee The Return Of Almost $4 Billion In Refunds And Reimbursements Owed To Airline Passengers," Including Over $600 Million To Consumers Affected By The 2022 Southwest Airlines Holiday Meltdown:

- **Billions of Dollars Returned to Passengers:** Since President Biden took office, DOT has helped oversee the return of almost $4 billion in refunds and reimbursements owed to airline passengers – including more than $600 million to passengers affected by the Southwest Airlines holiday meltdown in 2022 – through enforcement actions.

[Department of Transportation, 12/05/24]

In September 2025, The Trump Administration Said It Would Stop Defending A Biden-Era Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Rule Barring Businesses From Using Noncompete Agreements To Suppress Wages And Competition In The Market, Despite The Administration Securing Its Own Victory After The Largest Pet Cremation Business Was Found To Have "Unlawfully Suppressed Competitors' Entry" Into The Market.

In September 2025, The Trump Administration Said It Would Stop Defending Biden-Era Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Rulemaking Barring The Use Of Noncompete Agreements Which Restricts Workers' Rights To Join Competing Companies, With Over 20% Of U.S. Workers Having To Sign A Noncompete.

September 2025: President Trump's Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Announced It Would Stop Defending A Biden Administration Rule That Aimed To Ban Companies' Use Of Noncompete Agreements, Which Bar Workers From Joining Rival Employers Or From Launching Competing Businesses. "President Donald Trump's administration abandoned on Friday the U.S. government's legal defense of a rule adopted under former President Joe Biden that had banned agreements commonly signed by workers not to join rivals of their employers or launch competing businesses. The U.S. Justice Department filed motions in federal appeals courts in New Orleans and Atlanta to dismiss separate appeals of rulings by two judges that struck down the 2024 U.S. Federal Trade Commission rule concerning 'noncompete' agreements. Republicans and business groups have criticized the rule." [Reuters, 09/05/25]

FTC Chair Andrew Ferguson Said In February 2025 That The Agency Would Review The Rulemaking After A Legal Challenge Was Brought By The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, Real Estate Developers, And Other Business Groups. "The move was expected after FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson, who was appointed to the post by Trump and had previously criticized the rule, said in February that the agency was reviewing it. The appeals involve legal challenges to the rule by a marketing firm and a real estate developer, as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups." [Reuters, 09/05/25]

- **"More Than 20% Of U.S. Workers Have Signed Noncompete Agreements," And Noncompetes "Limit Worker Mobility And Suppress Wages And Competition For Labor."** "More than 20% of U.S. workers have signed noncompete agreements, according to the FTC. The agency, in adopting the rule, had said the agreements limit worker mobility and suppress wages and competition for labor." [Reuters, 09/05/25]

Despite Rolling Back The Rule, The Trump FTC Launched Its Own Legal Challenge Against Noncompete Agreements And Secured A Settlement That Allegedly Found The Largest Pet Cremation Business "Unlawfully Suppressed Competitors' Entry Into The Pet Cremation Market."

Despite The Roll Back, The FTC Also Launched A Legal Challenge Over A Noncompete Agreement That "Unlawfully Suppressed Competitors' Entry Into The Pet Cremation Market." "The FTC on Thursday announced its first legal action of Trump's second term related to noncompete agreements, a settlement barring the largest U.S. pet cremation business from enforcing these agreements with 1,800 workers. The agency, in adopting the rule, had said the agreements limit worker mobility and suppress wages and competition for labor. The agency in that case, said that the company's broad agreements, signed even by low-level employees, unlawfully suppressed competitors' entry into the pet cremation market." [Reuters, 09/05/25]

The U.S. Chamber Led The Coalition Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration's Rulemaking And Contended That The FTC Engaged In "Government Micromanagement" And Defended The Noncompete Practice As It Has Been Around Longer Than The FTC.

Noncompete Challenges Have Come Primarily From Large Industry Groups Such As The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, Which Filed A Coalition Lawsuit In April 2024, Where The Groups Contend The FTC Engaged In "Government Micromanagement" And That The Agency Has Not Been Around As Long As Noncompetes:

> **U.S. Chamber files coalition lawsuit challenging the Federal Trade Commission's Noncompete Rule, which bans noncompete agreements nationwide**
>
> April 24, 2024
>
> The Chamber filed a coalition lawsuit against the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) after the agency voted to ban employer noncompete agreements. The FTC's action sets a dangerous precedent for government micromanagement and will harm employees, employers, and the economy.
>
> **Why it matters:** The Chamber continues fighting back against government micromanagement.The FTC contends that by using regulation they can simply declare common business practices to be "unfair methods of competition" and thus illegal. This is despite the fact that noncompete agreements have been around longer than the 110-year-old FTC and until now no one has suggested that they are illegal.

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed 09/22/25]

According To An August 2025 Report From Former CFPB Head Of Enforcement Eric Halperin, 22 Pending Enforcement Actions Have Been Dropped By Trump's CFPB, As Over $3 Billion In Consumer Redress Could Be Jeopardized When Taking Into Account Dropped Or Reversed Actions And Settlements—To Put This In Perspective, Only One Enforcement Action Had Been Dropped By The CFPB In Its 14-Year History Before Trump's Second Term.

In August 2025, A Report From Former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Head Of Enforcement Eric Halperin Found That Trump's CFPB Had Dropped At Least 22 Pending Enforcement Actions Against Companies Accused Of Financial Wrongdoing And Reversed Multiple Settlements, Totaling Potentially Over $3 Billion In Lost Restitution To Harmed Consumers.

August 2025: U.S. News Reported That The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Had Dropped At Least 22 Pending Enforcement Actions Against Companies Alleged To Have Committed Financial Wrongdoing As Well As Reversed Numerous Settlements To Redress Harmed Consumers.

"Few federal agencies have experienced the upheaval that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has faced so far in 2025. The Trump administration has attempted to fire much of the agency's workforce. Meanwhile, the financial watchdog's daily operations have reportedly slowed significantly. [...] So far this year, the CFPB has dropped at least 22 pending enforcement actions against companies it had accused of financial wrongdoing, according to a recent analysis by consumer groups. It has also reversed multiple settlements where companies had already agreed to refund affected consumers." [US News, 08/27/25]

To Put This Into Perspective, Eric Halperin, Former CFPB Head Of Enforcement, Said That In Its 14-Year History, The CFPB Had Only Dropped One Pending Enforcement Action And Never Terminated A Settlement. "In its roughly 14-year history prior to 2025, the CFPB had only once dropped a pending enforcement action, and it had never terminated a settlement, says Eric Halperin, the CFPB's former head of enforcement, who resigned in February after acting CFPB Director Russell Vought sent out an agencywide stop-work order." [US News, 08/27/25]

A Recent Report Co-Authored By Halperin With The Consumer Federation Of America Found That An Estimated $360 Million In Redress Owed To Consumers As Part Of Settlements Is Gone Or At Risk, With That Total Increasing To Over $3 Billion When Including Dropped Lawsuits. "Halperin, who is a visiting senior fellow at the Consumer Federation of America, co-authored a recent report that estimated $360 million owed to consumers as part of settlements is gone or at risk. He says that when you add in the dropped lawsuits that were pending, 'that's potentially over $3 billion in harm to consumers that will never be redressed." [US News, 08/27/25]

Many Of The Dismissals Were Accompanied With Little To No Explanation From CFPB Officials, As Former Director Richard Cordray Said In May That It Appeared The CFPB Was "Almost Mindlessly Broken In Some Instances," With Other Former Officials Saying These Dismissals "Will Likely Give Some Companies The Green Light To Engage In Potentially Deceptive Practices With Little Concern For Retribution."

Observers Noted "Many Of The Dismissals Have Been Accompanied By Little Or No Explanation From The CFPB" As Former Director Richard Cordray Noted In May That The Agency Was "Almost Mindlessly Broken In Some Instances." "Many of the dismissals have been accompanied by little or no explanation from the CFPB. That's led some observers to question how much consideration is going into some of the decisions. Richard Cordray, the bureau's first director, said in a May interview with U.S. News & World Report that it appeared the CFPB was being 'almost mindlessly broken in some instances.'" [U.S. News, 08/27/25]

Other Former Bureau Officials Said, "The Loosening Of Enforcement Goes Beyond The Dollar Figures In The Cases" And Will "Likely Give Some Companies The Green Light To Engage In Potentially Deceptive Practices With Little Concern For Retribution." "Former bureau officials say the impact of the loosening of enforcement goes beyond the dollar figures in the cases in question. They say it will likely give some companies the green light to engage in potentially deceptive practices with little concern for retribution." [U.S. News, 08/27/25]

In April 2025, Trump-Appointed Judge Mark Pittman Vacated The CFPB's Credit Card Late Fee Rule, Estimated To Save American Families Over $10 Billion A Year In Late Fees, After The Trump-CFPB Agreed With Industry Arguments And Requested The Rule Be Vacated.

In March 2024, The Biden-CFPB Finalized A Rule Cutting The Typical Credit Card Late Fee, Estimated To Save American Families Over $10 Billion A Year In Late Fees.

March 2024: The Biden-CFPB Finalized A Rule Cutting The Typical Credit Card Late Fee From $32 To $8, Estimated To Save American Families Over $10 Billion A Year In Late Fees. "The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) finalized a rule today to cut excessive credit card late fees by closing a loophole exploited by large card issuers. The rule will curb fees that cost American families more than $14 billion a year. The CFPB estimates that American families will save more than $10 billion in late fees annually once the final rule goes into effect by reducing the typical fee from $32 to $8. This will be an average savings of $220 per year for the more than 45 million people who are charged late fees." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 03/05/24]

In April 2025, Trump-Appointed Judge Mark Pittman Vacated The Biden-Era Late Fee Rule After The Trump-CFPB Agreed With Industry Arguments And "Requested That Judge Pittman Vacate The Rule And Dismiss All Remaining Claims With Prejudice."

April 15, 2025: Trump-Appointed Judge Mark Pittman Of The Northern District Of Texas Vacated The CFPB's Credit Card Late Fee Rule After The Trump-CFPB Agreed With Industry Group Plaintiffs To Repeal The Rule. "On April 15, 2025, Judge Mark T. Pittman of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas entered an order and final judgment vacating the CFPB's credit card penalty fees rule (the Late Fee Rule). Judge Pittman's order comes in response to an April 14, 2025, joint motion for consent judgment filed by the CFPB and plaintiffs and held that the Late Fee Rule is vacated 'or failure to allow card issuers to 'charge penalty fees reasonable and proportional to violations,' in violation of the Credit Card Accountability and Disclosure Act' (the CARD Act) and Administrative Procedure Act.'" [Holland & Knight, 04/22/25]

- **On April 14, 2025, The Day Before Judge Pittman Made His Ruling, Trump CFPB Chief Legal Officer Mark Paoletta Agreed With The Industry Groups' Arguments That The Late Fee Rule Violated The Credit Card Accountability And Disclosure Act (The CARD Act) And Subsequently "Requested That Judge Pittman Vacate The Rule And Dismiss All Remaining Claims With Prejudice."** "Several trade groups and financial institutions filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of Texas challenging the Late Fee Rule on the basis that the new, lower safe harbor fee did not allow 'issuers to charge fees that sufficiently account for deterrence or consumer conduct, including with respect to repeat violations' and 'violate[d] the express requirements of the CARD Act.' In the parties' April 14 joint motion for consent judgment, CFPB Chief Legal Officer Mark Paoletta agreed with the plaintiffs' position and Judge Pittman's previous finding that 'in the Late Fee Rule, the [CFPB] violated the Card Act by failing to allow card issuers to 'charge penalty fees reasonable and proportional to violations.' Accordingly, the CFPB requested that Judge Pittman vacate the rule and dismiss all remaining claims with prejudice." [Holland & Knight, 04/22/25]

- **Judge Mark Pittman Was Appointed By President Trump To Serve As A Federal Judge For The Northern District Of Texas And Was Sworn In In August 2019.** [Texas 2nd Court of Appeals, accessed 10/02/25]

In July 2025, Trump-Appointed Judge Sean Jordan Of The Eastern District Of Texas Vacated The CFPB's Medical Debt Rule—Estimated To Remove Approximately $49 Billion In Medical Debt From Credit Reports, Raising Credit Scores By An Average Of 20 Points—After Industry Groups Sued To Block It; While The Biden-CFPB Initially Defended The Rule, The Trump-CFPB Later Sided With Industry And Urged Its Repeal.

In January 2025, The Biden-CFPB Finalized A Rule Removing Approximately $49 Billion In Medical Debt From The Credit Reports Of 15 Million Americans.

January 2025: The Biden-CFPB Finalized A Rule Removing An "Estimated $49 Billion In Medical Bills From The Credit Reports Of About 15 Million Americans" Noting That "Medical Debts Provide Little Predictive Value To Lenders About Borrowers' Ability To Repay Other Debts," With Many Consumers Reporting Inaccurate Bills Or Bills They Otherwise Don't Owe. "Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) finalized a rule that will remove an estimated $49 billion in medical bills from the credit reports of about 15 million Americans. The CFPB's action will ban the inclusion of medical bills on credit reports used by lenders and prohibit lenders from using medical information in their lending decisions. The rule will increase privacy protections and prevent debt collectors from using the credit reporting system to coerce people to pay bills they don't owe. The CFPB has found that medical debts provide little predictive value to lenders about borrowers' ability to repay other debts, and consumers frequently report receiving inaccurate bills or being asked to pay bills that should have been covered by insurance or financial assistance programs." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 01/07/25]

The Biden-CFPB Estimated The Rule Would Raise The Credit Scores Of Consumers With Medical Debt By An Average Of 20 Points, Helping 22,000 Additional Mortgages Be Approved A Year.

In Announcing Its Rule, The Biden-CFPB Estimated The Rule Would Raise The Credit Scores Of Consumers With Medical Debt By An Average Of 20 Points, Helping 22,000 Additional Mortgages Be Approved A Year. "The CFPB's research reveals that a medical bill on a person's credit report is a poor predictor of whether they will repay a loan, and contributes to thousands of denied applications on mortgages that consumers would be able to repay. The CFPB expects the rule will lead to the approval of approximately 22,000 additional, affordable mortgages every year and that Americans with medical debt on their credit reports could see their credit scores rise by an average of 20 points." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 01/07/25]

In July 2025, Trump-Appointed Judge Sean Jordan Of The Eastern District Of Texas Vacated The Rule After The Trump-CFPB Agreed With Industry Arguments Against It.

July 2025: Trump-Appointed Judge Sean Jordan Of The Eastern District Of Texas Vacated The Rule In A Move Seen As A "Major Blow To The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." "A federal judge has ruled that medical debt can remain on Americans' credit reports, canceling a policy set in place by the Biden administration to help relieve the burden of health care expenses weighing on nearly a third of the population. The ruling — handed down by U.S. District Court of Texas' Eastern District Judge Sean Jordan on Friday — was a major blow to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which has fought against medical debt as a metric of credit worthiness." [NPR, 07/15/25]

- **Judge Sean Jordan Was Appointed To The Eastern District Of Texas In January 2019 By President Donald Trump And Was Confirmed In Mid-August 2019.** [Federal Judicial Center, accessed 10/06/25]

Industry Groups, Cornerstone Credit Union League And The Consumer Data Industry Association, Had Sued The CFPB To Block The Rule, With The Biden CFPB Initially Defending Its Rule—Upon Trump's Return To The Presidency, The Trump-CFPB Agreed With Industry's Arguments And Urged The Rule To Be Vacated. "Plaintiff trade groups Cornerstone Credit Union League and the Consumer Data Industry Association sued to block it later that same day. CFPB initially opposed the lawsuit. After Trump reentered the Oval Office, the regulator requested and received a three-month pause on the litigation so that it could review its position. In an April 30 joint motion filing with the plaintiffs, CFPB and its acting director, Russell Vought, wrote that they agreed with the argument that CFPB's rule exceeded the bureau's authority and should be pulled." [Fierce Healthcare, 07/14/25]