

June 12, 2017

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Reorganizing the Executive Branch



The Foundation to Restore Accountability

On March 13th, 2017 President Trump signed an Executive Order that aims to make the Federal government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the American people. Shortly after the Executive Order was signed, the Office of Management and Budget asked the American people to submit their suggestions to help reorganize the executive branch and to eliminate unnecessary agencies.

With the help of our readers, Restore Accountability has compiled a list of the most important reforms we think should be addressed by the Executive Branch. Many recommendations are either duplicative, wasteful, or an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars, and should be reformed so that taxpayers can once again be confident their hard earned money is spent with a purpose.

Among the 178 reader submissions, solutions include increasing choice for Veterans and school children, eliminating programs that only help the wealthy, reforming work training programs to better fit today's needs, and restoring accountability on Capitol Hill.

While there are many more reforms Restore Accountability and our readers would like to see implemented, we consider this list to be a fantastic start. If you or your staff would like more information or specifics on how to implement our recommendations, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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Suggestions

Department of Agriculture

- **Market Access Program** - This program subsidizes the advertising costs of agriculture companies and trade associations doing business outside of the United States. Originally intended to be a resource for helping small businesses enter export markets, the program has warped into a corporate welfare program. This year over \$170 million will go to large companies and trade show associations like the Wine Institute, who exported a record \$1.5 billion worth of wine last year. **ELIMINATE or REFORM**

Department of Defense

- **Research & Development** - Equipping and protecting our service members should be of the utmost importance so they can do their job safely and effectively, and that starts with eliminating non-essential wasteful research within the Pentagon. Non-military research and development that has little or nothing to do with national defense now totals \$6 billion, and includes research that has been duplicated by other agencies. The Department of Defense should be treated as equally as other agencies and should not get a free pass when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars. **ELIMINATE or REDUCE**

Department of Education

- **Vouchers** - Promote school choice by increasing the number of vouchers given to elementary and secondary education school families.
- **Veterans** - Institute a policy that promotes the hiring of our nation's veterans in schools.

Federal Reserve System

- **Audit** - Increase transparency by making the Federal Reserve submit to an audit of its performance, budget, and relationships with public and private entities.

Department of Health and Human Services

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- **National Institutes of Health** - The NIH is the nation's premier medical research agency, which focuses on specific research agendas or particular diseases or body systems. However, in recent years, they have struggled to fight virus outbreaks, despite a \$34 billion budget. A closer look will show that while the agency is well funded, it is failing to prioritize its spending. Studies like "do birds slur when they are drunk" or "where does it hurt most to be stung by a bee" are not priorities. Therefore, the NIH should look inward to find savings to make better use of taxpayer dollars. **REFORM AWARD PROCESS and MAKE TRANSPARENT**

United States Agency for International Development

- **Foreign Aid** - Evaluate all foreign aid. Eliminate aid that is duplicative and consolidate programs to better achieve their purposes.

Department of Transportation

- **Infrastructure** - Create a list of priorities, like a 10 year plan, and address the country's most pressing infrastructure needs. Eliminate wasteful or frivolous expenditures, focus on only the essentials.
- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** - Reform the Diabetes Exemption Application. Process needs to be better streamlined for timeliness and accuracy.

Department of Treasury

- **New Markets Tax Credit** - Created to help assist businesses and developers in low-income areas, this program has been anything but a program for the poor. Much of the assistance goes to wealthy investors and has subsidized projects in Beverly Hills and the Hamptons. Some projects include ice skating rinks, Subways, IHops, and museums. This is a tax credit that is directed to the well-connected and special interest and eludes the very Americans this credit aimed to help. **ELIMINATE or REFORM**

Department of Veterans Affairs

- **VA Hospitals** - Close the VA hospital system. Instead, use the voucher system where veterans could use any hospital they choose.

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- **VA Hospitals** - Reform the VA hospital system by replicating what successful hospitals do.

General Government

- **Government Buildings** - Evaluate all government buildings and their needs. Consolidate or sell government buildings that are not used frequently or are vacant for a certain period of time.
 - **Government Land** - Evaluate federally owned land. Consolidate or sell federally owned land that does not serve a purpose for the federal government.
 - **Work Training Programs** - Eliminate duplicative programs. Reform programs to better serve workers. Strict oversight on training programs and eliminate if they are not working.
 - **Federal Pensions** - Eliminate or reform federal pensions.
 - **Lobby Ban** - Institute a 10 year lobby ban for former Members of Congress and essential staff members.
 - **Domestic Assistance** - Reform assistance programs to better fit the needs of Americans and make programs more efficient.
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