



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

How Trump's Joint Address to Congress Impacts Public Employees

Glossed Over Harm to Public Employees

During his speech on March 4th, President Trump glossed over the irrevocable damage and chaos he has inflicted on public employees across the country. For example, there was no mention of the mass firings of federal workers, which have caused harm and ongoing confusion for our Federation of Indian Service Employees members and other federal workers, leading to a disruption in critical services.

Instead of clarifying his policies or recognizing the impact his policies have on public employees and our communities, Trump:

- Praised his immediate freeze on all hirings and regulations;
- Reiterated his order that all federal workers must return to the office or be removed from their job;
- Claimed that hundreds of thousands of federal workers have not been showing up to work; and
- Announced that any federal worker who resists change will be removed from their job.

Amplified Lies Claiming Federal Savings

Trump used his joint address to Congress to continue to spread lies about how much money he has saved since taking office, claiming “we found hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud.”

- The [New York Times](#) fact-checked this claim, finding it lacks evidence. The Department of Government Efficiency is run by Elon Musk, whose team has claimed to have generated \$105 billion in savings, with the vast majority of savings appearing unexplained and unable to be verified by outside sources.

No Plan to Lower Costs

While Trump has spent his first weeks in office cutting jobs in the federal workforce, he is claiming he will spur job growth “like we have never seen before” through tariffs on foreign products. Meanwhile, he didn't discuss a plan to lower costs for the American people that are [skyrocketing](#) on his watch.

- Outside [fact-checkers](#) noted his claims lack evidence; while tariffs can create jobs, they also raise costs and incite retaliation, and they can sometimes destroy jobs, too.
- In fact, he doubled down on his disastrous tariffs that tanked the stock market and will *raise* costs for families and workers, leading to higher prices for groceries, gasoline, cars, homes and other household items.
- [Experts](#) say Trump's tariffs could cost families over \$1,200 more per year.

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

AFT, AFL-CIO • 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • 202-879-4400 • www.aft.org



March 5, 2025

Clear Plan to Benefit Billionaires, Hurt Americans

The only real plan Trump laid out was his plan to cut taxes for billionaires and corporations, many of which ship American jobs overseas.

But everyone else gets hurt in order to pay for these giveaways to the rich and powerful.

- His plan makes deep cuts to healthcare programs like Medicaid.
- He's cutting contracts for America's farmers, threatening their very existence—despite paying lip service to their livelihoods and telling them to “have fun.”
- He's cutting funding to find cures for childhood cancer despite claiming it's one of his top priorities.