



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

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Trump gets court win over limiting federal union rights



A federal appeals court on Friday, May 16, has cleared the way for President Trump's executive order to move forward, aiming to curtail collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of federal workers while litigation continues.

The decision, issued Friday, followed the Trump administration's request for an emergency stay of a lower court ruling that had blocked the order's enforcement across more than 30 federal agencies and departments.

The administration contends the executive order is essential for reducing the federal workforce in the interest of national security. While current labor law allows exemptions for national security roles—such as those at the FBI—Trump's order seeks to broaden that exemption more than any previous administration.

Union officials say the order is a vehicle for mass firings and political retaliation against labor organizations opposed to Trump's government downsizing agenda. The NTEU, which is suing to block the order, claims it would sweep in many workers who have no national security functions.

In one such move, the administration has petitioned a court in Kentucky to void the collective bargaining agreement at the Internal Revenue Service, where NTEU represents many employees. The union maintains that Internal Revenue Service (IRS) roles have no national security relevance.

Other agencies affected include the Departments of Health and Human Services, Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).