

Inter-Office Memo



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TO: International Executive Board
FROM: Legislative Department
SUBJECT: Weekly Legislative Update on the Trump Administration

1) TRADE & MANUFACTURING

The U.S. Trade Representative [said](#) President Trump will soon issue a supplemental proclamation to increase the new 10% global tariff to 15%, “where appropriate”, indicating that the higher levy might not apply to countries who have negotiated a lower rate under previous deals.

The U.S. International Trade Commission launched two separate investigations targeting China. The first will [investigate](#) the economic impact of revoking permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China. Congress granted PNTR to China in 2000, which subjected Chinese imports to very low tariffs and led to a massive surge in imports. The second will [investigate](#) China’s support and pricing practices targeted at the biotech sector.

2) IMMIGRATION

Vice President JD Vance and Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), [announced](#) that \$259 million in Medicaid funds would be withheld from Minnesota. Citing concerns about fraud, Vance said funds could be withheld in other states as well, such as California.

Immigration agents [detained](#) a student at Columbia University this week without a warrant, claiming they were looking for a missing child to get into the building. Mayor Zohran Mamdani later [announced](#) that President Trump would release the student, following a meeting between the President and the Mayor earlier that day.

3) LABOR

A federal appeals court [removed](#) the injunction that prevented the administration from implementing Trump’s March 2025 executive order which eliminated union rights at dozens of federal agencies, impacting nearly one million federal workers including hundreds of UAW members at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Litigation will continue on Trump’s executive order, but the administration can now exclude workers from their previous statutory and contractual protections while the case continues.

4) CONGRESS

After the second week of the partial government shutdown, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) remains without funding. DHS announced that it is [taking](#) measures to save money by halting non-emergency services and travel, and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem has again [threatened](#) to suspend TSA PreCheck. DHS attempted to suspend TSA PreCheck last week before [reversing](#) their decision a few hours later. The White House sent a counteroffer to Democrats in the spending negotiations late in the week, the details of which have not been made public.

President Trump gave his State of the Union address to Congress this week, speaking for nearly two hours and [breaking records](#) for the longest SOTU in recent history. Among a range of topics covered by Trump in the address, the President pressured Congress to pass the SAVE America Act, an extreme bill that would [disenfranchise](#) millions of voters. The bill has passed the House but does not have the 60 votes needed to pass in the Senate. While some conservatives want Republicans to force a “talking filibuster” in an attempt to pass the bill in the Senate, such a move is [controversial](#) even within the Republican caucus.

Democrats are [likely to force](#) votes this week to block further military action in Iran, although the party appears divided following the launch of joint U.S-Israeli combat operations over the weekend. While a small number of Republicans have co-led or signaled openness to the measures, several Democrats have ruled out any effort to block continued military operations in Iran. Last year, two war powers votes failed in the Senate regarding Trump’s military operations in Iran and Venezuela.

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