

Josh Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General



P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General Kaul Joins Lawsuit Challenging Trump Administration's Dismantling of National Volunteer Public Service Agency, AmeriCorps

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Josh Kaul today, as part of a multistate coalition, filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's dismantling of AmeriCorps, including release of members and volunteers, placing 85% of its workforce on leave, and suddenly terminating grants and contracts, effectively ending the agency's ability to continue administering the programs, operations, and funding that make its important work possible.

AmeriCorps is an independent federal agency tasked with engaging Americans in meaningful community-based service that directly addresses the country's educational, public safety, and environmental needs — every year, the agency provides opportunities for more than 200,000 Americans to serve their communities.

“The attempt to dismantle AmeriCorps is part of a pattern from the Trump administration of disrespect toward those who serve others,” said AG Kaul. “That approach is not just shameful — it's misguided. AmeriCorps volunteers and projects help strengthen communities. AmeriCorps should be thanked for its work, not abruptly dismantled.”

BACKGROUND

AmeriCorps supports national and state community service programs by providing opportunities for Americans to serve communities and by awarding grants to local and national organizations and agencies which use funding to address critical community needs. These organizations and agencies use AmeriCorps funding to

recruit, place, and supervise AmeriCorps members nationwide. AmeriCorps members and volunteers have connected veterans to essential services, fought the opioid epidemic, helped older adults age with dignity, rebuilt communities after disasters, and improved the physical and mental well-being of millions of Americans.

In early February, the Trump Administration issued an executive order directing every federal agency to plan to reduce the size of its workforce and prepare to initiate in large-scale reductions in force. Since then, AmeriCorps has placed at least 85% of its workforce on administrative leave immediately and notified employees that they would be terminated effective June 24, 2025.

On April 25, Wisconsin received notice from the federal government of termination of its AmeriCorps grant programs that support volunteer and service effort.

LAWSUIT

In the complaint today, AG Kaul and a multistate coalition argue that by abruptly canceling critical grants and gutting AmeriCorps' workforce, the Trump Administration is effectively shuttering the national volunteer agency and ending states' abilities to support AmeriCorps programs within their borders.

The coalition establishes that the Trump Administration has acted unlawfully in its gutting of AmeriCorps, violating both the Administrative Procedures Act and the separation of powers under the U.S. Constitution. Congress has created AmeriCorps and the programs it administers, and the President cannot incapacitate the agency's ability to administer appropriated grants or carry out statutorily assigned duties. Further, by dismantling AmeriCorps and its programs, which are creatures of Congress, the Trump Administration has violated the Executive Branch's obligation to take care that the law is faithfully executed.

In bringing today's lawsuit, Attorney General Kaul joins the attorneys general of Maryland, Delaware, California, Colorado, Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, the District of Columbia, and the states of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

A copy of the complaint is available [here](#).