



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Attorney General Brown Wins Preliminary Injunction Against Trump Administration for Mass Firings of Federal Probationary Employees

**BALTIMORE, MD (April 1, 2025)** – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown led a coalition of 20 attorneys general to secure a [preliminary injunction \(PI\)](#) in *Maryland et al. v. USDA*, a lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for Maryland suing numerous federal agencies for the unlawful mass firing of federal probationary employees.

The PI protects federal probationary employees who live or work in the plaintiff states and orders 20 federal agencies to reinstate unlawfully terminated probationary employees while the court case continues. The PI also requires those agencies to follow lawful procedures in conducting any future reductions in force.

### Statement from Attorney General Brown:

*“When the Trump Administration fired tens of thousands of federal probationary employees, they claimed it was due to poor work performance. We know better. This was a coordinated effort to eliminate the federal workforce – even if it meant breaking the law.*

*These mass layoffs forced hardworking civil servants and their families into financial insecurity, a sudden and unexpected crisis that risked overwhelming our State’s ability to help the unemployed.*

*I will not let the president threaten our communities or the livelihoods of Marylanders just so he can fulfill his misguided goal of dismantling the federal government, in the name of government efficiency.*

*This ruling ensures Maryland jobs and resources are safe while we continue this fight in court.”*

On March 6, 2025, Attorney General Brown [led the coalition in suing numerous federal agencies](#) for causing irreparable injuries to Maryland and the other plaintiff states. The lawsuit sought immediate relief, and a federal judge issued a [temporary restraining order \(TRO\)](#) on March 14, 2025, for 18 federal agencies. The Court later extended that order by five days such

that it was set to expire on April 1, which would have resulted in devastating impacts on Maryland and the plaintiff states, as well as their probationary employees.

The PI extends the Court’s earlier order requiring the federal agencies to stop the unlawful mass firings and to give those employees their jobs back while the attorneys general litigate the case against the agencies. The PI ensures that for the remainder of the case, the following federal agencies cannot continue their unlawful conduct:

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| Department of Agriculture                   | Department of Transportation                       |
| Department of Commerce                      | Department of Treasury                             |
| Department of Defense                       | Department of Veterans Affairs                     |
| Department of Education                     | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau               |
| Department of Energy                        | Environmental Protection Agency                    |
| Department of Health and Human Services     | Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation              |
| Department of Homeland Security             | General Services Administration                    |
| Department of Housing and Urban Development | Office of Personnel Management                     |
| Department of Interior                      | Small Business Administration                      |
| Department of Labor                         | United States Agency for International Development |

Attorney General Brown was joined by the attorneys general of Minnesota, the District of Columbia, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai‘i, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/040125a.pdf>