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OUTLOOK: Transgender ruling latest victory for Trump in a SCOTUS term marked by successes

PLUS: More than 320 charged in health-fraud bust; maritime industry lags behind its adversaries; and EPA employees issue 'declaration of dissent' against Trump policies.



(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Ledyard King and Emily Scaff and Amelia Monroe

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President Trump and his MAGA allies continue to reap the rewards from a Supreme Court he remade in his first term.

On Monday, the Court directed lower appellate courts to revisit decisions blocking four states—Idaho, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and West Virginia

—from banning transgender care. [The move](https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-transgender-sports-health-a7c361e9fc57d63c1c9fc1d4d2120a91) (https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-transgender-sports-health-a7c361e9fc57d63c1c9fc1d4d2120a91), wasn't surprising given the high court's [ruling last month](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/23-477_2cp3.pdf)

(https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/23-477_2cp3.pdf), upholding Tennessee's ban on transgender medical procedures for youth. But it was another victory for the administration nonetheless.

That wasn't all. The justices also agreed to hear in their next term a challenge to campaign finance laws limiting how much political parties can spend in coordination with candidates. Vice President J.D. Vance is a plaintiff in the case to repeal those limits, an issue Republicans in general support.

Last week, decisions involving birthright citizenship and parental rights in schools went Trump's way. Earlier in the term, there were victories on letting the Department of Government Efficiency access Social Security records, allowing the mass

dismissal of probationary workers, and lifting deportation protections for certain groups of immigrants.

“From the perspective of legal conservatives, the Supreme Court today finished off one of its four best Terms since the 1930s,” conservative commentator Ed Whelan [wrote in the *National Review*](https://www.nationalreview.com/bench-memos/excellent-alito-opinion-in-mahmoud-v-taylor/)

(<https://www.nationalreview.com/bench-memos/excellent-alito-opinion-in-mahmoud-v-taylor/>). Friday. “The other three Terms in the top four were last year, the year before, and the year before that.”

“The year before that” was 2022, when the justices reversed *Roe v. Wade*, and with it the nearly 50-year constitutional right to abortion access that many conservatives had long sought to undo.

Many of these decisions have gone 6-3, after half the conservative majority—Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett—took their seats in Trump’s first term.

There have been some losses, such as the ruling in April affirming a lower-court decision that the Trump

administration [had wrongfully deported](https://www.gwlr.org/kilmar-abrego-garcia/)

(<https://www.gwlr.org/kilmar-abrego-garcia/>), a

Maryland man, Kilmar Abrego Garcia,
to El Salvador.

But it's hard to see conservatives losing a lot of ground in the Court over the next few years—or decades. Sen. Mitch McConnell, who as Republican leader steered Trump's remaking of the high court, said as much when he spoke in 2019 about the importance the courts play in determining the fate of policy.

“What can't be undone is a lifetime appointment to a young man or woman who believes in the quaint notion that the job of the judge is to follow the law,” he said. “That's the most important thing we've done in the country, which cannot be undone.”

—[Ledyard King](https://www.gwlr.org/kilmar-abrego-garcia/) ([/search/?a=Ledyard%20King](https://www.gwlr.org/kilmar-abrego-garcia/)).



DAILY

Spanberger balances social issues with pushback against Trump

Virginia gubernatorial candidate highlights stances on reproductive rights, federal workforce on campaign bus tour.

ABBY TURNER

([/s/728915](https://www.gwlr.org/kilmar-abrego-garcia/))

More than 320 charged in largest health-fraud bust in U.S. history

Prosecutors have charged more than 320 people in what the Justice Department is calling the largest health care fraud bust in history, federal officials announced Monday.

Roughly \$14.6 billion in false claims were uncovered in a series of health fraud schemes involving prescription opioid trafficking, telemedicine and genetic testing, insurance, and wound care. Officials seized \$245 million in cash, luxury vehicles, and cryptocurrency.

Nearly 100 licensed medical professionals face charges, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.

“The scale of today’s Takedown is unprecedented, and so is the harm we’re confronting,” Juliet Hodgkins, acting Health and Human Services inspector general, [said in a statement Monday](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/national-health-care-fraud-takedown-results-324-defendants-charged-connection-over-146).

(<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/national-health-care-fraud-takedown-results-324-defendants-charged-connection-over-146>). “Individuals

who attempt to steal from the federal health care system and put vulnerable patients at risk will be held accountable.”

Nineteen of the defendants were charged for their alleged roles in transnational criminal organizations as part of the government’s Operation Gold Rush, which uncovered a \$10 billion scheme, leading to what the DOJ said is the largest amount ever charged by the department in a health care fraud case.

The scheme involved a series of foreign straw owners who assumed false identities, purchased dozens of medical-supply companies across the United States, and submitted fraudulent Medicare claims for items such as urinary catheters. The identities and information of over 1 million Americans spanning all 50 states were exploited in the scheme.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services also announced that it had prevented over \$4 billion from being paid in fraudulent claims.

"Today's unprecedented enforcement action demonstrates that CMS and our federal partners are united in our mission to protect the integrity of Medicare and Medicaid by crushing waste, fraud, and abuse," CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz said in a statement.

—[Emily Scaff](#)(</search/?a=Emily%20Scaff>).



DAILY

'A bridge too far': Trump administration proposal to gut EPA gets bipartisan pushback

Administrator Lee Zeldin defends his plan to slash agency funding by more than half, including cuts to Superfund, state clean water aid, and climate research.

ISABELLA TIMMERDING

(</s/728522>)

U.S. maritime industry lags behind its adversaries, raising national security concerns

The United States' capacity for building commercial ships has been on the decline over the last decade, raising red flags about the maritime industry's ability to meet national defense needs, a watchdog report warns.

The Government Accountability Office
on Monday [reported](#)

(<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107304>).

that unclear performance standards
from the federal Maritime
Administration could be a barrier
holding the nation back from growing
its fleet of commercial ships. President
Trump also has sounded alarm bells.

“The commercial shipbuilding capacity
and maritime workforce of the United
States has been weakened by decades of
government neglect,” Trump wrote in
an April [executive order](#).

([https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-
actions/2025/04/restoring-americas-maritime-
dominance/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-americas-maritime-dominance/)). This, he added, is “leading to
the decline of a once strong industrial
base while simultaneously empowering
our adversaries and eroding United
States national security.”

U.S.-built vessels generally have higher
construction and operating costs than
foreign-built ships, so the Maritime
Administration has four financial-
assistance programs to help stimulate
domestic production. The GAO found
that the agency has yet to establish

measurable goals for the programs, such as the number of ships that should be built, leading to an inefficient support system for industry growth.

The U.S. has been virtually eliminated from the global maritime market since 2019, when industrial policies allowed China, Korea, and Japan to take the lead. The U.S. [accounts](https://www.csis.org/analysis/china-dominates-shipbuilding-industry)

(<https://www.csis.org/analysis/china-dominates-shipbuilding-industry>), for only 0.1 percent of global shipbuilding capacity, while China has established itself as the dominant shipbuilding power in the world, accounting for over 53 percent of industry production.

—[Amelia Monroe](#) (</search/?a=Amelia%20Monroe>).

EPA employees issue ‘declaration of dissent’ against Trump administration policies

A group of Environmental Protection Agency employees published a letter Monday condemning changes to the agency’s policies under the Trump administration.

More than 300 employees signed the

[“Declaration of Dissent”](https://www.standupforscience.net/epa-declaration)

(<https://www.standupforscience.net/epa-declaration>), addressed to EPA

Administrator Lee Zeldin, saying the administration is “recklessly undermining the EPA mission” under his leadership.

The letter lays out five main concerns, accusing Zeldin of “undermining public trust,” “ignoring scientific consensus to benefit polluters,” reversing EPA progress on environmental justice, “dismantling the Office of Research and Development,” and “promoting a culture of fear” among the agency’s staff.

“Today, we stand together in dissent against the current administration’s focus on harmful deregulation, mischaracterization of previous EPA actions, and disregard for scientific expertise,” the letter said.

Since Zeldin took over the agency, the EPA has shut down the vast majority of environmental-justice programs and canceled billions of dollars in grants, the letter said. These initiatives worked

to address pollution and climate change burdens that disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, [EPA research shows](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-report-shows-disproportionate-impacts-climate-change-socially-vulnerable) (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-report-shows-disproportionate-impacts-climate-change-socially-vulnerable>).

President Trump proposed slashing EPA funding by nearly \$5 billion in his budget request for fiscal 2026—a 54 percent reduction from the previous year.

The proposed reorganization of the agency would dismantle the Office of Research and Development, the agency's foundational scientific-research arm, in a move that will make “EPA science more vulnerable to political interference,” the letter said.

Additionally, the letter aired concerns over politicization of the agency, warning that Zeldin's promotion of “misinformation and overtly partisan rhetoric” is “undermining public trust.”

Specifically, the declaration calls out recent EPA newsletters in which Zeldin has referred to EPA grants as a [“Green Slush Fund Scam](#)

(<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEPAA/O/bulletins/3e2d33f>)” and criticized individual [Democratic lawmakers](#) (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEPAA/O/bulletins/3e1d688>).

“Policy decisions are a result of a process where Administrator Zeldin is briefed on the latest research and science by EPA’s career professionals,” an EPA spokesperson told *National Journal* in an email. “And the vast majority are consummate professionals who take pride in the work this agency does day in and day out.”

The letter was published through [Stand Up For Science](#)

(<https://www.standupforscience.net/about>), a non-profit organized in February to advocate against federal cuts to science and research funding. Employees at the National Institutes of Health issued a [similar letter](#) (https://www.standupforscience.net/bethesda-declaration?utm_source=pressrel&utm_campaign=bethesdadec) through the organization in early June condemning deep cuts to that agency.

—[Emily Scaff](#) (</search/?a=Emily%20Scaff>).