

Ban Presidential Plunder of Taxpayer Funds Act

Senators Elizabeth Warren & Chuck Schumer, Representatives Jamie Raskin & David Min

President Donald Trump is attempting to extract billions of dollars from the American taxpayer through his control of Executive Branch officials. In October 2025, President Trump sought \$230 million from his Department of Justice (DOJ) to settle claims challenging DOJ's investigations into his alleged coordination with Russia during the 2016 election and mishandling of sensitive government documents. Officials who report to President Trump's Attorney General will decide how to handle his proposed settlement. Then in January 2026, President Trump sued the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) seeking \$10 billion in damages over an IRS employee's unauthorized release of his tax data during his first term. IRS and DOJ officials who will decide how to litigate that case report to senior Trump appointees. Experts have [called](#) these claims by the President against his own government a "glaring conflict of interest," and President Trump himself has [acknowledged](#) that "it's awfully strange to make a decision where I'm paying myself."

This [unprecedented situation](#) of a president seeking to recover from his own Administration "has no parallel in American history." It has revealed the need to update federal law to close the loophole that would allow a sitting president to effectively pay himself taxpayer money.

The *Ban Presidential Plunder of Taxpayer Funds Act* would:

- ***Ban the sitting President/VP from collecting settlement payments from the United States:*** Prohibit the President, Vice President (VP), their spouses/children, a trust that exists for their benefit, or entity they own or control from collecting damages payments from the United States through a settlement or similar agreement with the government the President/VP leads.
- ***Pause filing and processing of a sitting President or VP's administrative claims:*** Prohibit federal agencies from processing or fulfilling damages claims brought by the President/VP. Also prohibit the President/VP from filing administrative claims for damages while in office.
- ***Impose guardrails on the President/VP's federal lawsuits seeking damages:*** Only allow the President/VP to collect compensatory damages awarded by a federal court if the court appoints an independent counsel to represent the agency and makes all proceedings public.
- ***Cooling-off period during a former VP's term as President:*** If a former President's VP is elected President, impose the same restrictions on the former President while the former VP is still in the White House.
- ***Impose guardrails on claims by former presidents/VPs:*** Allow former presidents/VPs to collect damages from the U.S. government, but only if:
 1. the federal agency appoints career expert staff to lead the agency's review or adjudication of any administrative claim brought by the former president/VP, and no official appointed by any president/VP is involved in handling the claim;
 2. any settlement agreement made with or payment made to the former president/VP is made public in the Federal Register within 7 days and Congress is given key details.
- ***Permit eventual filing:*** Toll the statute of limitations for claims by the President and VP.
- ***Penalties:*** Subject Presidents/VPs who violate these restrictions to disgorgement of improper payments, criminal penalties, and/or civil penalties, with a lengthened statute of limitations so that a future DOJ after the current presidential administration can pursue penalties.