

I oppose the proposed changes because they would politicize the civil service, centralize more power in the President, result in unstable government policy and degrade the skill level of individuals who want to devote their careers to serving their government.

The real purpose behind the proposed rule is to make it easier for a sitting President to replace civil servants with whom he may or may not agree and install his own appointees. For 145 years, our government has been peopled by those dedicated to public service. They understand that they are hired to implement the law and the policies of the current President. It is for this reason that there already are 4,000 political appointees in every agency of the government. There is no need for additional political appointees.

The ability of the President to effectively remove civil service protections to potentially thousands more will make government service far less desirable. If an employee can lose his or her job simply by doing as they were instructed by the prior Administration (or for no apparent reason at all) it would remove the security of a government job. Because many government jobs do not typically pay as well as comparable jobs in the private sector, job security has always been an important consideration for those seeking to make their careers in government, especially for those whose skills would otherwise be in high demand.

Equally important, the government would lose valuable expertise and experience. If incumbents in so many government positions are subject to removal, newcomers will have to learn new jobs and do so without the benefit of having experience in the agency. The learning curve is often great. As a result, the quality of implementation of government functions will suffer, resulting in inefficiency and even ineptness. Learning on the job is no way to run a government.

Finally, the economy needs stability. Constant turnover in thousands of positions would undermine consistency of government policies and programs. Those investing in business will risk less if they are able to reliably anticipate or predict the business and economic environments in which they will function in the future. The prospect of changing government policies and programs will undermine confidence and retard investment and growth.

Our country has prospered because government, in general, has been both competent and predictable. It has attracted high levels of talent and public service has always been recognized as a noble profession. To politicize so many more civil service protected positions will have severe detrimental impacts. This rulemaking should be withdrawn.