

What is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and why is it a Trump target?

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was established to root out corporate wrongdoing after the 2008 crash. The Trump administration has moved to weaken it.

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By [Kelly Kasulis Cho](#) and [Leo Sands](#)

The Trump administration has ordered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to temporarily close its office and suspend many of its services, [according to emails viewed by The Washington Post](#), sowing uncertainty for the future of the federal watchdog tasked with investigating and penalizing corporate wrongdoing.

Bureau detractors have long accused it of overreach, while Elon Musk — the tech billionaire tapped by President [Donald Trump to diminish the federal government](#) — has described it as one of [“too many duplicative regulatory agencies.”](#) On Friday, Musk [posted](#) “CFPB RIP” alongside a tombstone emoji to X, [after his aides](#) established themselves at the CFPB’s headquarters.