

NEWS

The Government Created an Inbox for Snitching on DEI Workers. The Internet Has Plans For it

An internal memo threatened “adverse consequences” for anyone who is aware of, but does not report, ongoing DEI work.



BY SAMANTHA RIEDEL

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Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

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Federal employees are being instructed to snitch on their fellow workers in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, after President Trump moved to abolish those offices in an executive order earlier this week.

Amid the dozens of executive orders Trump signed so far this week, one instructs federal agencies to dismantle all federal DEI offices and programs, while another calls on the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to “terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law” all workers in DEI-related positions within 60 days. (Another Trump order reiterated those demands specifically towards the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA — the culmination of the conservative campaign falsely blaming DEI programs for airplane safety issues.)

On Tuesday, CBS News producer Kristin Brown obtained an internal memo from acting OPM director Charles Ezell, which instructs all federal agency heads to take certain steps towards closing DEI offices and firing workers. All DEI office workers should be placed on immediate administrative leave, the memo reads in part, and all DEI contractors should be immediately terminated. The memo also calls for each agency to submit “a list of all contract descriptions or personnel position descriptions” that were altered after the 2024 election “to obscure their connection to DEIA programs.”

“Given the broad brush that they have painted, it’s potentially very large numbers of people” that could be laid off as a result of Trump’s order, former acting OPM director Rob Shriver told NPR this week. In a video interview posted Thursday, National Urban League

president Mark Morial called Trump's DEI orders "an assault on the civil rights movement and everything we've achieved in the last 60 years."

A template letter attached to the OPM memo, intended to be used by each department head in communicating the mandate, appears to vaguely threaten any workers who do not report those alleged efforts to "obscure" DEI programs. "We are aware of efforts by some in government to disguise these programs by using coded or imprecise language," the letter reads. "If you are aware of a change in any contract description or personnel position description since November 5, 2024 to obscure the connection between the contract and DEIA or similar ideologies, please report all facts and circumstances to DEIAtruth@opm.gov within 10 days. There will be no adverse consequences for timely reporting this information. However, failure to report this information within 10 days may result in adverse consequences." The template letter did not elaborate on what "adverse consequences" could entail.

By Wednesday, some agencies had already taken steps to comply with the Trump mandate, most notably the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Acting Administrator Janet Petro distributed the letter to her agency as written, as SpaceNews noted, despite having previously called NASA diversity programs "paramount to mission success." The Department of Homeland Security tweaked its version of the letter slightly, per the *New York Times*, assuring workers that failing to report "will result in adverse consequences" (emphasis added).



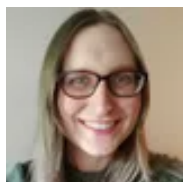
Trump's Sweeping Anti-Trans Executive Order Explained

The president signed the sweeping order within hours of taking office, signaling that curtailing the rights of trans people is a top priority for his administration.

But just like that time Texas' snitch line was flooded with *Bee Movie* scripts, the internet has not taken Trump's mandate lying down. Shortly after the OPM memo and email address were posted online, numerous social media users began posting plans to flood the designated inbox, aiming to prevent OPM from identifying or taking action on any legitimate reports. The disruption plans ranged from on-the-nose satire to absurdity: on Bluesky, author Craig Calcaterra wrote "[f]uck these McCarthyite bastards" atop a screenshot of an email naming Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and other top administration officials as "unqualified persons given government jobs solely because of their race or gender," while on the other end of the spectrum, X user @CameronCorduroy posted the start of his own email — the infamous cypypasta declaring that Vaporeon is the most canonically fuckable Pokemon.

Fortunately, there's been no executive order telling us what we can and can't do with the entire *Bee Movie* screenplay. How best to use this information is, of course, up to you.

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