

Ensuring Government Accountability, Oversight, and Equity in Governance

Introduction

Government is not a business. It exists to serve the public, not to generate profit. The role of government is to protect citizens, ensure stability, and provide services that sustain society, such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and security.

However, recent trends have raised concerns about government accountability, executive overreach, and the influence of unelected figures in decision-making. Congress, tasked with overseeing government actions, has largely failed to act as a check on the executive branch, allowing external influences—like corporate leaders and billionaires—to shape policy without proper oversight.

This report examines the dangers of governing without accountability, the failures of Congress to uphold its constitutional role, the rollback of essential oversight institutions, and the impact of these changes on ordinary citizens. It also provides recommendations to restore transparency and ensure that government decisions prioritize the public good over private interests.

The Role of Government vs. Business: Why They Cannot Be the Same

There is a growing misconception that government should be run like a business. However, government and private enterprise operate under entirely different principles. A business seeks to maximize profits, while a government must prioritize the well-being of all citizens, including the most vulnerable.

Elon Musk, despite his success as a businessman, has never held public office or been elected to govern. His understanding of leadership is rooted in private ownership and corporate control, where efficiency and cost-cutting trump public welfare considerations. This approach is fundamentally incompatible with the responsibilities of a government, which must balance economic growth with social responsibility and democratic processes.

Legislative Accountability and the Failure to Check Executive Power

One of Congress's primary functions is to oversee the executive branch and prevent overreach. However, in recent years, lawmakers have increasingly deferred to presidential authority, allowing unchecked executive actions to reshape policies without proper legislative scrutiny.

Instead of holding the executive branch accountable, many lawmakers prioritize political

loyalty or re-election concerns, weakening democracy and enabling the consolidation of power within a small circle of individuals who were never elected to govern.

Key Legislative Failures

- Failure to Challenge Executive Overreach – Congress has allowed presidents to bypass normal legislative processes through executive orders and agency directives.
- Fear of Political Retaliation – Lawmakers avoid challenging executive authority due to concerns over losing party support, campaign funding, or public favor.
- Ignoring Influence from Unelected Advisors – Individuals like Elon Musk have gained informal access to policymaking without being vetted by Congress or held accountable for their decisions.

How Can Musk Cut Spending Without Legislative Approval?

The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the 'power of the purse,' meaning only Congress can approve federal spending and budget allocations. Any changes to already approved budgets should require legislative approval. If Musk is influencing or altering government financial decisions without congressional approval, this raises serious constitutional and legal concerns.

Unchecked Spending Mechanisms

- Executive Orders & Agency Discretion – The president can direct agencies to shift spending within existing budgets but cannot eliminate legally mandated programs without Congress.
- Emergency Declarations – While emergency powers can allow budget reallocation, there is no clear justification for using them in this case.
- Regulatory Manipulation – Agencies can modify spending priorities through administrative rules, bypassing Congress's intended allocations.
- Eliminating Oversight Bodies – Without financial monitoring agencies, spending decisions can be made with little transparency or accountability.

The Danger of Unelected Power Brokers in Government

One of the most concerning trends in governance is the growing influence of unelected figures—such as billionaires, lobbyists, and corporate executives—who shape policies without being accountable to the public. Unlike elected officials or confirmed government appointees, these individuals operate outside formal governmental structures, yet wield immense influence over national decisions.

Conflicts of Interest and Lack of Oversight

- Musk's Businesses Receive Government Contracts – SpaceX, Tesla, and Starlink have secured billions in federal contracts, creating a clear conflict of interest if Musk has influence over financial decisions.

- DOGE's Lack of Transparency – Reports suggest that DOGE has removed oversight agencies, making it harder to scrutinize financial decisions.
- Congress's Failure to Act – Lawmakers have not imposed limits on informal advisors or demanded transparency in decision-making.

The Rollback of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policies

DEI policies were created to address systemic inequalities in hiring, education, and government contracting. However, recent policy shifts have led to their dismantling, reducing opportunities for underrepresented groups and weakening anti-discrimination protections.

Impacts of DEI Rollbacks

- Loss of Government Contracts for Minority-Owned Businesses – Without DEI protections, smaller businesses struggle to compete with large corporations.
- Reduced Workplace Diversity – Eliminating DEI policies leads to fewer women and minorities in leadership roles.
- Weakened Protections Against Discrimination – Without DEI enforcement, hiring and promotion biases can return.

Legal and Legislative Challenges to Restore Accountability

To address these governance failures, legal and legislative measures must be implemented to restore transparency, ensure congressional oversight, and limit the influence of unelected figures in policymaking.

Proposed Reforms

- Congressional Hearings – Require unelected advisors influencing policy to testify before Congress.
- Stronger Conflict-of-Interest Laws – Prevent individuals with financial ties to government contracts from influencing policy.
- Restoring Independent Oversight Agencies – Reinstate financial watchdogs to monitor government spending.
- Enforcing Congressional Budget Authority – Prevent executive agencies from making unilateral budget decisions.
- Strengthening DEI Protections – Maintain policies that ensure fair access to government contracts, education, and employment.

Conclusion: Restoring Public Trust in Government

The preservation of democracy requires an accountable government that prioritizes public welfare over corporate interests. Congress must reclaim its oversight role, enforce

transparency, and ensure that unelected individuals do not dictate policy decisions. Without these protections, government will continue to serve the interests of the powerful rather than the needs of the people.

The Risks of Private Individuals Having Direct Access to Government Payment Systems

One of the most alarming revelations is that Elon Musk has been given direct access to the U.S. Treasury Department's payment system. This means he can see exactly who the government is paying, including his competitors, defense contractors, and other federal recipients. Such access is unprecedented for a private individual and raises serious concerns about conflicts of interest, economic fairness, and government transparency.

Key Concerns with Treasury Access

- Unfair Competitive Advantage – Musk's companies compete for federal contracts, yet he has access to payment data revealing what competitors are earning.
- Potential Insider Knowledge – Having direct visibility into Treasury payments allows Musk to anticipate government spending decisions before the public.
- Risk of Financial Misuse – The ability to monitor Treasury transactions could lead to selective funding decisions that benefit his businesses while disadvantaging others.
- Weakening Public Trust – Government payments should be managed with strict security. Allowing a private billionaire access undermines faith in the system.

Solutions to Prevent Private Access to Government Financial Systems

- Revoke Private Access to Treasury Systems – Ensure only vetted government officials have visibility into payment records.
- Strengthen Oversight on Government Contractors – Independent audits should prevent any one company from gaining an unfair advantage through inside information.
- Enforce Stricter Financial Ethics Rules – Legislation should prevent any private entity from overseeing government financial data without proper checks and balances.
- Mandate Transparency Reports – The Treasury Department should disclose any non-government individuals who have access to financial records and justify their roles.

The Elimination of Oversight Agencies and the Dangers of Deregulation

Another disturbing trend is the removal of Inspectors General and the push to dismantle regulatory agencies that oversee corporate accountability. These agencies exist to protect public health, ensure environmental safety, regulate fair business practices, and monitor government spending. Weakening or eliminating these protections allows businesses to operate with little accountability, increasing risks for consumers, workers, and the environment.

Key Concerns with Eliminating Regulatory Agencies

- Lack of Business Accountability – Without regulatory agencies, corporations have fewer checks on unethical or unsafe practices.
- Public Health Risks – Cutting agencies like the FDA could lead to unsafe medications, ineffective vaccines, and unregulated food safety.
- Environmental Dangers – Eliminating environmental oversight could allow unchecked pollution, destruction of public lands, and corporate exploitation of natural resources.
- Consumer Protection Weakening – With fewer oversight agencies, businesses could engage in deceptive practices without consequences.
- Weakening Worker Protections – Agencies that enforce workplace safety standards could be dismantled, endangering workers in hazardous industries.

Solutions to Protect Government Oversight and Public Safety

- Restore and Strengthen Inspectors General – Reinstate independent watchdogs who investigate fraud, corruption, and business misconduct.
- Preserve Regulatory Agencies – Maintain agencies like the FDA, EPA, and OSHA to ensure businesses operate responsibly.
- Enforce Corporate Accountability – Require regular audits and impose penalties for violations of public safety and labor laws.
- Increase Transparency in Business-Government Relations – Ensure companies disclose lobbying efforts and prevent corporate leaders from influencing policy without oversight.
- Strengthen Consumer Protection Laws – Ensure agencies like the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) continue to safeguard public interests.

The Threats to FAA Oversight and the Rising Risks in Air Travel

Recent trends suggest that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is becoming a target for deregulation, leading to concerns about air safety, pilot training standards, and the loss of critical air traffic controllers. The aviation industry is essential to national security, commerce, and public transportation, but efforts to cut regulations and reduce oversight threaten passenger safety and operational reliability.

Key Concerns with FAA Deregulation and Air Traffic Controller Shortages

- Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers – The FAA is facing a critical shortage of trained controllers, leading to increased stress and a higher risk of errors.
- Increase in Aircraft Incidents – Reports of near-misses and safety concerns in air travel have been on the rise.

- Reduction in FAA Safety Regulations – There have been efforts to loosen oversight over airlines, potentially compromising passenger safety.
- Privatization of Air Traffic Control – Some proposals suggest transferring air traffic management to private corporations, raising concerns about profit-driven decision-making rather than safety-first policies.
- Weakened Oversight of Aircraft Manufacturers – A reduction in regulatory inspections could lead to safety issues in aircraft production and maintenance.

Solutions to Protect Air Travel Safety and FAA Oversight

- Increase Air Traffic Controller Recruitment – Invest in hiring and training programs to prevent staffing shortages.
- Strengthen FAA Safety Regulations – Ensure that deregulation efforts do not compromise passenger safety.
- Enhance Oversight of Aircraft Manufacturing – Maintain strict regulatory inspections of commercial aircraft production and maintenance.
- Prevent Privatization of Air Traffic Control – Keep air traffic management under federal oversight to ensure safety remains the top priority.
- Improve Working Conditions for Air Traffic Controllers – Reduce workload burdens and provide adequate rest periods to prevent stress-induced errors.

The Importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Government and Business

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies are often misrepresented as being solely about race. However, DEI is fundamentally about **eliminating discrimination in all forms** and ensuring that people from all backgrounds have **fair access to opportunities** in government, business, and education.

DEI protections **do not give handouts**—they ensure that individuals and businesses, regardless of race, gender, disability, economic status, or background, **are not unfairly excluded from opportunities they are qualified for**. Without DEI, government contracts, employment, and educational access would be limited primarily to those with wealth, privilege, or generational connections, shutting out hardworking Americans who may not have been born into financial advantages.

By eliminating DEI programs, many small businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and individuals from lower-income backgrounds will **lose the opportunity to compete fairly** in government contracting, education, and employment. The argument that 'hard work alone' determines success ignores the systemic barriers that have historically existed for many Americans.

Why DEI Is Essential Beyond Race

- Preventing All Forms of Discrimination – DEI policies protect not just people of color but also **women, veterans, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds**.
- Expanding Government Contracting Opportunities – DEI ensures that **small businesses and minority-owned businesses** have a fair chance to compete against large corporations for federal contracts.
- Ensuring Access to Education – DEI programs provide **scholarships and pathways** for students from underprivileged backgrounds who may not have had access to elite schools.
- Supporting Economic Growth – A diverse workforce and business sector contribute to innovation, job creation, and long-term economic prosperity.
- Fairness in Hiring and Promotion – Without DEI protections, businesses and government agencies could revert to **biased hiring practices** that disadvantage qualified candidates.

The Consequences of Eliminating DEI

- Fewer Opportunities for Small and Minority-Owned Businesses – Large corporations would dominate federal contracts, shutting out **entrepreneurs and smaller companies**.
- Widening Economic Inequality – Without DEI, only those with **generational wealth** would have access to the best opportunities, **leaving many hardworking Americans behind**.
- Reduced Representation in Leadership – The elimination of DEI would lead to fewer **women, disabled individuals, and people from different backgrounds** in positions of power.
- Loss of Innovation and Economic Growth – Studies have shown that **diverse workplaces and leadership teams drive better business performance and innovation**.
- Increased Workplace Discrimination – Without DEI protections, workplaces could become less inclusive, with fewer checks against bias in hiring and promotions.

Solutions to Strengthen DEI Initiatives

- Protect and Expand DEI in Government Contracting – Ensure that **small businesses, women-owned businesses, and veteran-owned businesses** continue to receive fair consideration for government contracts.
- Increase DEI Education and Training – Implement **workplace training programs** that promote equal opportunity and prevent discrimination.
- Maintain DEI in Higher Education – Support **scholarships and financial aid programs** that allow students from diverse backgrounds to pursue quality education.

- Strengthen DEI in Hiring and Promotions – Enforce policies that ensure **merit-based hiring** while protecting against bias in hiring and promotions.
- Public Transparency on DEI Progress – Require **government agencies and large corporations** to publicly report their efforts in ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Rollback of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policies: A National Crisis

The dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives represents one of the most significant policy shifts in recent years. DEI policies were designed to combat systemic discrimination, ensure equal opportunities for businesses and individuals, and promote fairness in government contracts, education, and employment. However, recent executive actions have aggressively targeted DEI programs, leading to widespread concerns about increased discrimination and economic inequality.

Government Actions to Eliminate DEI

- Executive Order to End DEI in Federal Agencies – In January 2025, the administration signed an order titled 'Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing,' effectively terminating DEI-related initiatives in all federal departments ([White House Executive Orders](<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>)).
- Defunding DEI in Education – The U.S. Department of Education launched the 'End DEI' portal, encouraging public complaints against diversity efforts in schools, which could lead to funding cuts ([Reuters](<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-launches-end-dei-portal-public-complaints-about-diversity-schools-2025-02-28/>)).
- DEI Purge in the Military – The Pentagon ordered the removal of all DEI-related content from military websites and social platforms, weakening diversity efforts in recruitment and leadership ([Express News](<https://www.expressnews.com/news/texas/article/trump-hegseth-purge-dei-military-websites-facebook-20192017.php>)).
- Legislative Efforts to Ban DEI – Lawmakers are drafting bills to prohibit DEI programs at the state and federal levels, limiting access to government contracts and educational opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups ([The Atlantic](<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/02/trump-attacks-dei/681772/>)).

The Consequences of Eliminating DEI

- Fewer Government Contract Opportunities – Many small, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses rely on DEI protections to compete for federal contracts. Eliminating these programs could result in a marketplace dominated by large corporations.
- Educational Barriers – Without DEI funding, scholarships and educational support programs for underprivileged students may be drastically reduced, limiting access to higher education.

- Military and Workplace Diversity Decline – The removal of DEI policies in government agencies and the military will likely result in ****less representation of diverse leaders, affecting decision-making and innovation****.
- Weakened Protections Against Workplace Discrimination – DEI policies provide frameworks for ****fair hiring and promotion practices****. Without them, businesses may revert to biased hiring processes, disproportionately affecting women and minority candidates.
- Negative Economic Impact – Studies show that ****diverse companies perform better financially****. The rollback of DEI may slow economic growth by ****limiting innovation and reducing job opportunities for underrepresented groups****.

Solutions to Strengthen and Protect DEI Initiatives

- Reinstate Federal DEI Programs – Ensure government agencies continue ****hiring practices and contracting policies that promote fair competition****.
- Require DEI Impact Reports – Federal and state governments should publish annual ****DEI impact assessments**** to measure progress in workplace diversity and business access to contracts.
- Protect DEI in Education – Schools and universities should continue ****equitable admissions policies and funding**** for students from underprivileged backgrounds.
- Preserve DEI in the Military – Ensure that ****diversity recruitment efforts remain a core strategy**** for the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Encourage Business-Led DEI Programs – Private companies should maintain ****independent DEI programs**** regardless of federal policies, ensuring fair workplace opportunities.