

02/05/25 Two federal judges from the [Rhode Island District Court](#) and the [Washington D.C. District Court](#) have issued temporary restraining orders (TROs) preventing federal agencies from terminating existing research activities impacted by the recently issued executive orders or the OMB memo. The Department of Justice clarified in a notice to agencies that “Federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations based on the OMB Memo or the President’s recent Executive Orders.” **It is important to understand that a TRO is temporary, and the judges involved are still hearing arguments regarding its continuation. Furthermore, our understanding is that federal agencies are required to review all grants to ensure that funds are utilized in accordance with federal law. Consequently, agencies may choose to exercise their authority to pause, modify, or terminate specific activities in the future.