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## Trump Approves \$9B Rollback in Foreign Aid, Public Funds

July 25, 2025

– Categories: *Finance*



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In a significant fiscal move, United States President Donald Trump has signed legislation to rescind \$9 billion in previously approved federal spending, including steep reductions to foreign aid and public broadcasting support. The decision reflects the administration's focus on prioritizing domestic accountability in taxpayer spending while challenging longstanding funding practices that have drawn criticism for a lack of transparency and efficiency.

The measure includes roughly \$8 billion in cuts to international assistance programs, notably those overseen by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID has faced scrutiny in recent years over its allocation methods and the perceived inefficiency in delivering measurable outcomes for American strategic interests. The rescission also removes approximately \$1 billion in funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). These networks have long drawn criticism from conservative circles over perceived bias and lack of ideological balance.

To address bipartisan concerns, the administration preserved \$400 million in global AIDS relief funding, a compromise intended to ease resistance from lawmakers wary of undermining health initiatives. The White House also committed to offsetting some of the impact on rural public broadcasting. These stations often serve communities with limited access to local news and emergency alerts, especially in areas where internet and mobile coverage are unreliable.

Despite initial pushback from a few Republican senators, the bill ultimately passed both the Senate and the House with near-unified support from the Republican side. According to CBS News, this marks the first time in decades that Congress has approved a presidential request to revoke already appropriated funds, a rare demonstration of executive influence over spending once it has passed through legislative approval.

President Trump had previously signed an executive order in May targeting reduced federal support for NPR and PBS, citing concerns over political bias. Public broadcasters have denied these claims, insisting on their editorial independence. Nonetheless, the move aligns with broader efforts by the administration to rein in federal expenditures seen as misaligned with national priorities.

Democratic opposition focused on the potential geopolitical ramifications, arguing that reduced American aid might create a vacuum for rivals like China to expand their influence. However, supporters of the bill see it as a corrective measure aimed at putting American taxpayers first, while reassessing foreign commitments that often go unexamined by the broader public.

This legislative action underscores a shift toward stricter oversight of federal spending, reflecting growing support for policies that emphasize domestic responsibility and restraint in international aid distribution.

