



WE LOST MORE THAN JOBS

Advocacy Messaging Guide

INTRODUCTION

The following document contains talking points for speaking about the public workforce cuts to distinct audience groups, including:

Neighbors, friends, and family

Professional peers

Politically engaged public

Advocacy organizations



Neighbors, friends, and family

Hundreds of thousands of federal public service positions have been cut and even more workers have been resigning. These losses are showing up in real, tangible ways that affect all of us.

When public servants disappear, we all pay the price.

This issue has real world implications; it's not a political game. It's about the services people rely on everyday running smoothly.

When these roles disappear, it becomes harder to access essential services from emergency response to health care to veterans services.

It's also about the public servants who dedicate their lives to making sure that we fly safely, have clean air and water, can access health care, and so much more.

Public servants are the people who make sure these systems work – and when they're stretched too thin, everyone feels it.



Professional Peers

The scale of workforce reductions was in the hundreds of thousands last year, adversely affecting the operation of critical services.

DOGE has drawn attention to this issue, but we have been undervaluing public servants for too long.

These cuts are impacting critical functions, including drug safety, veteran services, and emergency response systems.

We are seeing clear signs of capacity strain:

- For instance, workforce reductions at the National Weather Service—reportedly exceeding 600 positions—are placing additional pressure on disaster preparedness and response infrastructure.
 - Similarly, cuts to health and science agencies are resulting in delays in access to treatment, longer timelines for drug approvals, and reduced review capacity.
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This isn't a temporary disruption – it is a severe operational strain that is becoming structural.

Our economy and public trust in government performance and efficiency could stand to be undermined if this issue is not addressed immediately.

We owe it to the public workers who work tirelessly on our behalf to support and advocate for them, not only in times of great challenge, but always.



Politically engaged public

The workforce cuts of 2025 were an arbitrary, unfocused attack on public servants. They do not prioritize the American people.

While DOGE's actions drew attention to this issue, we have been undervaluing public servants for too long.

These cuts are directly affecting essential government functions, including drug safety oversight, veteran services, and emergency response, to name a few.

These outcomes underscore a fundamental reality: reducing the workforce does not reduce the need for services – it simply limits the government's ability to meet that need.

The role of public service workers has never been more visible, necessary, and, sadly, strained.

We need to stand up for dedicated public servants who know how to keep our country running. Because when public servants disappear, so do vital services.

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Advocacy organizations

Workforce reductions are affecting the communities we serve and the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of public servants.

While DOGE's actions drew attention to this issue, we have been undervaluing public servants for too long.

This impacts everything from healthcare access and economic stability to our nation's veterans and consumer safety.

Policy decisions being made in Washington are not working in the best interests of Americans.

We must come together to build a strong, supported workforce – one that allows Americans to access the services they rely on daily.

We must also highlight the value of public workers and the cost of losing them.

This impacts everything from healthcare access and economic stability to our nation's veterans and consumer safety.

We need the experts who know how to keep our country running, because when public servants disappear, so do the vital services our communities depend on.

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