

November 2, 2020

ASBMB statement on Trump's executive order creating schedule F in the excepted service

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“We condemn President Trump’s [executive order on creating schedule F](#) in the excepted service. Now more than ever, federal agencies and federal employees must guide the nation in handling the COVID-19 crisis, strengthening the economy and leading the nation forward. Instead, the Trump administration is focused on weakening federal agencies and subjecting them to politicization and corruption.

This executive order jeopardizes evidence-based policymaking by removing the civil service protections for federal employees in policymaking positions, subjecting them to whims of the president and those in his administration.

Under Trump’s executive order, due process protections are eliminated for many federal employees, including those who are scientists, doctors, lawyers and economist guiding federal policy. Employees moved into schedule F would effectively become at-will employees subject to political pressure and bias.

This could have a chilling effect on more than [2 million people](#) who make up the federal workforce and would especially harm nonpartisan experts, whose purpose is to advice and inform policymakers devoid of political opinion. This executive order is a brazen attack on apolitical civil service and would further politicize science within the federal government.

We urge Congressional leaders to put a stop to this attack on evidence-based policy.”