

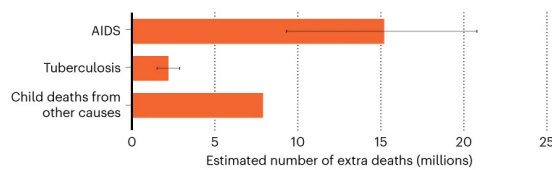
STEPHEN MILLER'S WAR ON CANCER CURES

After describing in a post that “a budget is a moral document,” Don Moynihan argued that the skinny budget Trump released last week wasn’t even that. It was, instead, propaganda, infested with the same nasty slogans all Trump’s other White House policy documents are. Those slogans, Moynihan argues, serve to convince us to take actions – here, to destroy science and foreign aid – “that would normally run against our interests or violate our moral code.” The nasty slogans convince us, or at least convince Trump’s loyal rubes, to let children die.

[P]eople can debate the lab leak hypothesis, but the idea that you would stop providing foreign aid or cut cancer research for this reason is odd. Both USAID and NIH cuts will result in a massive numbers of unnecessary deaths. An analysis in the journal *Nature*, estimated that 25 million people will die if the USAID money disappears. Around 7 million people died due to COVID.

A WORLD WITHOUT US AID

Millions of people could die between 2025 and 2040 if all United States funding for global health is terminated and not replaced.



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*Compared with estimates of continued funding at 2024 levels.

Source: Stover/Preprints with The Lancet

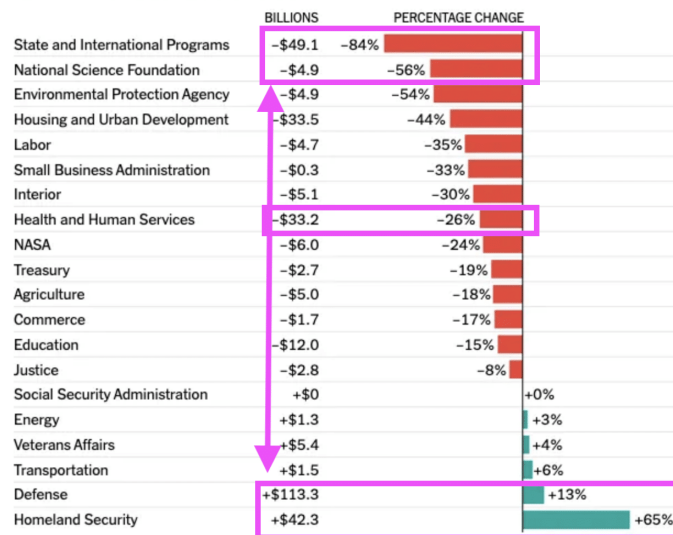
The purpose of propaganda is to divorce us from reality, to push us to actions that would normally run against our interests or violate our moral code. In an administration that formed an anti-Christian bias taskforce, it is hard to think of anything less Christian than condemning millions of the most vulnerable people in the world to die. Of course, mercy and empathy are not

just Christian values, but for a certain type of Christian nationalist they are values to be avoided. Propaganda makes such hypocrisies more palatable.

When countries engage in a massive dismantling of their scientific infrastructure, they cannot do it quietly. It is so obviously counterproductive that it can only occur via a broader mobilization, where higher education or experts are treated as part of an evil corrupting the nation.
[emphasis original]

But the numbers described in the budget do make the morality of it quite plain. Trump is transferring the money saved by cutting AIDS prevention and cancer cures and using it to massively expand the budget for Stephen Miller's deportation regime.

Proposed budget change by agency
Base discretionary funding change, 2025-26



Note: Amounts include budget changes the administration is anticipating from the reconciliation process. They do not include offsets or the V.A. Toxic Exposures Fund. - Analysis of budget data by Bobby Kogan, Center for American Progress - The New York Times

As described, Trump cuts \$163 billion from what OMB calls discretionary spending and uses the "savings" to increasing funding for DHS by 65%.

The Budget, which reduces non-defense discretionary by \$163 billion or 23 percent from the 2025 enacted level, guts a weaponized deep state while

providing **historic increases for defense and border security**. The Budget also provides support for air and rail safety as well as key infrastructure and our Nation's veterans and law enforcement.

This is the lowest non-defense spending level since 2017. Savings come from eliminating radical diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and critical race theory programs, Green New Scam funding, large swaths of the Federal Government weaponized against the American people, and moving programs that are better suited for States and localities to provide.

Defense spending would increase by **13 percent**, and appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security would increase by nearly **65 percent**, to ensure that our military and other agencies repelling the invasion of our border have the resources they need to complete the mission. [emphasis original]

It's not just that Russ Vought and Stephen Miller are cutting AIDS prevention and cancer research. They're doing so to pay for Miller's gulag. Miller is cutting your access to health care and cancer cures to pay to deport your nurse assistant and cancer researchers (and, given the unnecessary bump in DOD spending, to invade Canada to take their health care away too).

Miller and Vought have targeted cancer cures via many vectors: deportations, cuts to grant funding, and personnel cuts.

Deportations of two of US citizen children with their parents, for example, disrupted their cancer treatment, first with a ten year old brain cancer patient turned away at the border.

Immigration authorities removed the girl and four of her American siblings from Texas on Feb. 4, when they deported

their undocumented parents.

The family's ordeal began last month, when they were rushing from Rio Grande City, where they lived, to Houston, where their daughter's specialist doctors are based, for an emergency medical checkup.

The parents had done the trip at least five other times in the past, passing through an immigration checkpoint every time without any issues, according to attorney Danny Woodward from the Texas Civil Rights Project, a legal advocacy and litigation organization representing the family. In previous occasions, the parents showed letters from their doctors and lawyers to the officers at the checkpoint to get through.

But in early February, the letters weren't enough. When they stopped at the checkpoint, they were arrested after the parents were unable to show legal immigration documentation. The mother, who spoke exclusively to NBC News, said she tried explaining her daughter's circumstances to the officers, but "they weren't interested in hearing that."

More recently a four year old boy with stage 4 cancer was sent to Honduras without his cancer medication.

Another mother wasn't allowed to speak with attorneys or family members before she was deported, accompanied by her U.S.-born children, even though Immigration and Customs Enforcement knew one of them had Stage 4 cancer.

Attorneys for the mothers and their children who were sent to Honduras are blasting Trump administration officials, saying the deportations of three U.S. citizen children over the weekend, including the 4-year-old boy who left

without access to his cancer medicines, are illegal.

It's not just cancer patients getting caught up in Miller's dragnet. Cancer researcher Kseniia Petrova has been in detention for almost two months after CBP accused her of trying to smuggle research materials – frog embryos – into the country.

A groundbreaking microscope at Harvard Medical School could lead to breakthroughs in cancer detection and research into longevity. But the scientist who developed computer scripts to read its images and unlock its full potential has been in an immigration detention center for two months – putting crucial scientific advancements at risk.

The scientist, the 30-year-old Russian-born Kseniia Petrova, worked at Harvard's renowned Kirschner Lab until her arrest at a Boston airport in mid-February. She is now being held at ICE's Richwood Correctional Center in Monroe, Louisiana, and fighting possible deportation to Russia, where she said she fears persecution and jail time over her protests against the war in Ukraine.

Broad cuts to NIH, NCI, and NIOSH have stalled research into cures and prevention progress.

Firings at the NIH Clinical Center, the country's biggest research hospital, have already devastated highly promising research work that aims to use the body's own immune cells to combat gastrointestinal cancers. Patients' experimental treatments have already been delayed because of limited staff capacity to make these personalized cell therapies and purchasing stalls. These therapies represent potential lifelines

for those with advanced cancers that have not responded to standard drugs. And many of these individuals, who are now increasingly younger in age, cannot afford to wait.

Elsewhere, hiring freezes at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have scuppered work studying elevated cancer rates in firefighters and paused a clinical trial of a new drug for advanced head and neck cancers. Research grants for Columbia University's cancer center have been canceled because of student-led Gaza protests. Concerns around "wokeness" have ended funding for studies examining cancers in sexual and gender minority individuals – an understudied group with poor cancer outcomes – at various academic institutions such as Emory University and the Mayo Clinic.

And cuts at the VA have disrupted clinical trials helping veterans.

Earlier this year, doctors at Veterans Affairs hospitals in Pennsylvania sounded an alarm. Sweeping cuts imposed by the Trump administration, they told higher-ups in an email, were causing "severe and immediate impacts," including to "life-saving cancer trials."

The email said more than 1,000 veterans would lose access to treatment for diseases ranging from metastatic head and neck cancers, to kidney disease, to traumatic brain injuries.

"Enrollment in clinical trials is stopping," the email warned, "meaning veterans lose access to therapies."

The administration reversed some of its decisions, allowing some trials to continue for now. Still, other research,

including the trials for treating head and neck cancer, has been stalled.

As entities like Harvard face the effects of these draconian cuts, this is a story that needs to be told. The Trump Administration is deporting and defunding cancer cures so *that* it can dramatically increase funding for a gulag system that voters don't want.

The right wing has boasted for months already that Trump has shut down migration across the border, and they're not wrong.

Yet Stephen Miller is still taking money that had been used to cure cancer and pursue scientific discovery in order to hunt down cancer researchers and, in the name of hunting down cancer researchers, to eliminate the due process guaranteed by the Constitution.

This *is* a moral story. And especially when described as a transfer, money taken from cancer cures and dumped into an expanding gulag, the moral imperative becomes even more clear.