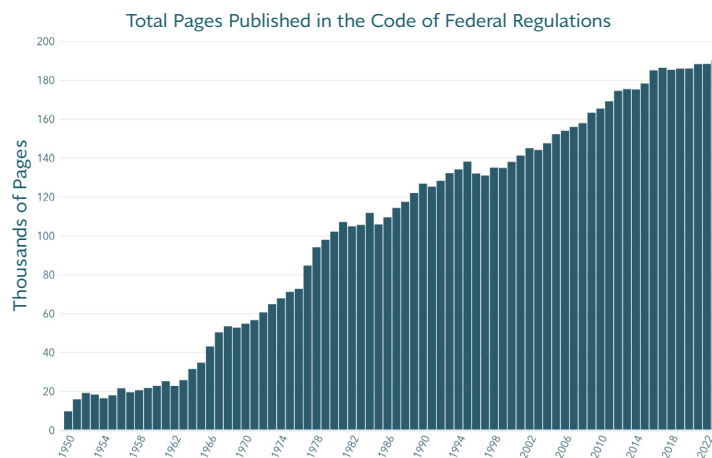


# Build American Strength Through Robust Growth

A vibrant economy is the cornerstone of American prosperity at home and U.S. strength abroad. To remain internationally competitive and capable of defending its vital interests, the United States needs a pro-growth regulatory environment and the Congressional incentives that encourage one.

## THE ISSUE

An overgrown and unaccountable administrative state risks stifling the American Dream with red tape and relinquishing U.S. global economic advantages. According to one estimate, compliance with the nearly 200,000 pages in the Code of Federal Regulations<sup>1</sup> cost the American economy at least \$12,800 per employee in 2022.<sup>2</sup> These costs were nearly four times higher for small manufacturers, a long-term strategic risk for the health of the U.S. defense-industrial base.<sup>3</sup>



Sources: GW Regulatory Studies Center, Code of Federal Regulations

For decades, federal agencies had excessive discretion to act as an unofficial “fourth branch” of government, adding to compliance burdens for decades by effectively legislating via regulation without democratic accountability. Following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*, Congress must take its legislating responsibilities back from unelected bureaucrats to rekindle American dynamism.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS

### CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT NEW REGULATIONS

The federal government should first ask “why” rather than “why not” when issuing new regulations. The Constitution requires Congress, not bureaucrats, to make law, therefore significant new regulations should earn legislative approval before they are implemented.

### RESET RULEMAKING

Agencies’ main procedure for formally creating new rules and regulations, the Administrative Procedure Act, has not been comprehensively updated since 1946. The APA should be modernized to improve transparency and robust cost-benefit analysis.

### REGULATORY SUNSETS

To reduce burdens and protect a dynamic economy, regulations should be periodically reviewed and repealed if they are no longer necessary. Congress should institute a review-and-sunset process to reduce government waste and reclaim its oversight role.<sup>4</sup>

## ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH REAUTHORIZATION

In FY 2025 alone, Congress continued to fund over \$500 billion in authorized spending that had already expired, nearly a third of the discretionary budget.<sup>5</sup> Congress must return to regularly reauthorizing agencies and programs in order to reclaim a key accountability tool and ensure that its will is carried out.<sup>6</sup>

## RESTORE REGULAR ORDER

Congress needs to get used to legislating again. Building on prior practice to instill an effective, committee-driven regular order is a crucial step.<sup>7</sup> Under regular order, Members will be empowered to leverage their specialized policy knowledge to improve legislation and have more of their priorities heard.

## CONTACT

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> [“Total Pages Published in the Code of Federal Regulations,”](#) Regulatory Studies Center, George Washington University, July 2, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Nicole V. Crain and W. Mark Crain, [“The Cost of Federal Regulation to the U.S. Economy, Manufacturing and Small Businesses,”](#) National Association of Manufacturers, October 2023. Pg. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> See: Andrew Gilstrap and Marc Marie, [“Article I Playbook,”](#) Americans for Prosperity, December 2024.

<sup>5</sup> “GAO Releases Report on Expired Appropriations,” House Budget Committee, August 26, 2025

<sup>6</sup> Danny Vinik, [“Meet Your Unauthorized Federal Government,”](#) Politico, February 3, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Kurt Couchman and Graham Owens, [“Building Up Congress: A Pocket Guide,”](#) Americans for Prosperity, November 6, 2025.