

PAID VACATION, FEDERAL STYLE

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Government-wide
- **FUMBLE:** Paying employees on administrative leave for months or even years at a time
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Create a clear process to handle employees on administrative leave; create faster processes for hearings

Leave it to the federal government to find a way to pay people who are not working. The federal government has made it a habit to place workers accused of misconduct on paid administrative leave for months or even years. Yes, years!

GAO released a report in fall 2014 to review the practices of five departments: DOD, VA, USAID, GSA, and DOI. GAO found these departments spent a combined \$3.1 billion on workers who were placed on paid administrative leave from 2011 to 2013,²⁹ \$775 million of which went toward the salaries of 57,000 employees who were off work for one month or longer³⁰. This is money paid from taxpayers who actually work hard to earn their salaries.

That is a lot of money to waste on not promptly and efficiently handling employee issues. Primarily, workers are placed on leave because they are under investigation for misconduct. Other reasons include whistleblowing and disputes among employees. Even for a complicated case of workplace misconduct, a more efficient and clear process would reduce this extreme waste of time and resources.

For more information, please visit:

[The Fiscal Times: Lawmakers Lash Out at Agencies for Paying \\$3.1 Billion to Idle Workers](#)
[GAO: Federal Paid Administrative Leave: Additional Guidance Needed to Improve OPM Data](#)



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RECOVERY

Congress should support a clear process for agencies to handle employees who are accused of misconduct or who have been placed on administrative leave for any other reason. If someone receives a paycheck, he or she needs to actually show up for work.

It is not fair to employees to keep them in limbo for months or years, and it is definitely not fair to hard-working American taxpayers to make them foot the bill for agencies that are unable to handle employee issues.