



Protesters interrupt management and budget director at hearing

By Morgan Leason
April 15, 2026

Protesters interrupted a budget hearing today, with chants to “end the blockade” while holding a sign against budget cuts to global health programs.

Russell Vought, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, was scheduled to testify before the House Budget committee but was interrupted by protesters roughly one minute into his speech.

“End the blockade,” they chanted, holding a sign that read, “Vought’s cuts kill people with AIDS,” before they were escorted out of the room two minutes later by Capitol Police.

The hearing was set to address President Donald Trump’s 2027 budget request.

Vought attempted to continue speaking before Texas GOP Rep. Jodey Arrington, who is chairman of the committee, paused and announced a brief recess.

Later during the hearing, Texas GOP Rep. Chip Roy said that the protesters, who chanted in favor of the George W. Bush-era President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief – or PEPFAR – were supporting “wasteful spending” such as “duplicative administrative costs.”