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New Report: Trump's Assault on Our Safeguards Continues with Nomination of Neomi Rao to Lead the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

President Trump's nomination of George Mason University law professor Neomi Rao to serve as Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) is a signal that OIRA will be a central cog in the administration's deregulatory agenda, according to [a new report](#) from the Center for Progressive Reform. The report examines the likely role of OIRA under Trump and Rao's possible impact as the so-called "regulatory czar."

"At the heart of the executive branch's regulatory review and coordination system, OIRA plays several key roles that few people have ever heard of despite the direct effect it has on their daily lives and well-being," said Robert Verchick, President of the Center for Progressive Reform and a co-author of the report. "Because of its relative obscurity, OIRA has been able to build up a decades-long track record of delaying, diluting, and blocking key public protections, to the detriment of the American people and with little meaningful public accountability."

That track record is unlikely to change under Rao. In fact, both President Donald Trump and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney have hinted that OIRA may play a key role in the push to "deconstruct the administrative state" – an objective that will do nothing to create jobs or prosperity but will serve to make us all less safe. Indeed, OMB and OIRA are already active in the implementation of Trump's anti-protections policies, including his short-sighted executive order that establishes a "one-in, two-out" regulatory budget for new safeguards.

"Rao's positions and academic papers seem to fit right in with that approach," said James Goodwin, Senior Policy Analyst at CPR and a report co-author. "She has advocated for the weakening of independent agencies that protect our health and our wallets, such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In addition, her extreme views on abstract but important human rights like dignity suggest that rules that promote those rights might not receive a fair hearing when it comes time for OIRA to subject them to its cost-benefit analysis test."

"Whether Rao leads the irresponsible charge against crucial protections or falls in line with the administration's extreme anti-protections push, it's clear that Trump intends OIRA to contribute to his assault on our safeguards," said Rena Steinzor, Member Scholar at CPR and a co-author of the report.

The full text of the report is available at http://www.progressivereform.org/assault_OIRA.cfm.

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