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America's Safety is Fragile; Trump is Tearing down the Systems That Protect It

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America in 2025 is safer than it's been in years. After a devastating surge during the early pandemic—when the U.S. homicide rate rose **more than 30%**—homicide rates have since plummeted. In 2024 alone, they **dropped** 16% nationally, one of the sharpest declines since the FBI began keeping national data.

This progress isn't happenstance. It's the direct result of deliberate investments in policy, research, and community-led strategies that addressed the underlying reasons for crime and violence. This progress is now under direct assault as the Trump administration has moved swiftly to dismantle the vital systems that keep Americans safe. In the last two weeks, the Justice Department **canceled hundreds of critical grants** to local governments and community organizations that fund violence prevention and public safety programs. Hundreds of National Science Foundation grants were **terminated**, including my own, following infiltration from Elon Musk's **Department of Government Efficiency**. If these rollbacks continue, we risk reversing years of progress and returning to a more violent, less stable future.