

President Trump denounced the embarrassing truth that in the wealthiest nation on Earth families are “overwhelmed by the cost of fuel, food, housing, automobiles, medical care, utilities.”²

The President *ordered* agency heads to “deliver *emergency* price relief, consistent with applicable law, to the American people and increase the prosperity of the American worker.” He called on them to take actions to lower the cost of housing and expand housing supply, to eliminate the “rent-seeking practices” that raise the cost of healthcare, and to create employment opportunities for American workers.³

The FTC is poised to do that. The FTC has stopped grocery mergers that threatened to raise prices on groceries;⁴ it has stopped pharmaceutical companies from gaming the patent system to maintain monopolies on life-saving asthma inhalers;

⁶ it has freed workers from non-compete agreements that trap them and their families in dead-end jobs.⁷

Andrew Ferguson could have made his first public act as Chairman a motion to study the rising cost of groceries.⁸ He could have acted on a pending public petition from a group of wall and ceiling contractors to investigate how lawbreaking contractors can effectively rig contract

¹ President Donald J. Trump, “Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis,” Jan. 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/delivering-emergency-price-relief-for-american-families-and-defeating-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Id.* (emphasis added).

⁴ See Danielle Kaye, *Federal Judge Blocks \$25 Billion Kroger-Albertsons Grocery Merger*, N.Y. Times, Dec. 10, 2024.

⁵ See Claire Hao, *Lehigh Cement Drops \$151 Million Keystone Deal After FTC Block*, Bloomberg Law, June 4, 2021.

⁶ See Blake Brittain, *Amneal, US FTC win order removing Teva inhaler patents from FDA list*, Reuters, June 10,

public to comment on five different requests for information (RFIs). One of the RFIs asked the public how the Commission could best protect workers from illegal business practices; another sought input on how the Commission could best ensure small businesses are not being preyed upon.¹⁴ Rather than let the American people speak to him, Chairman Ferguson shut them out.