

The Supreme Court Allows Trump to Use Billions in Disputed Funds to Build the Wall, Lifts the Injunction

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The US Supreme Court handed President Donald Trump a victory by letting his administration redirect \$2.5 billion in money approved by Congress for the Pentagon to help build his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, even though lawmakers refused to provide funding. The administration has said it plans to redirect \$6.7 billion from the Departments of Defense and Treasury toward wall construction under the emergency declaration after failing to convince Congress to provide the money. Last February, Trump declared a national emergency in a bid to fund the wall without congressional approval, an action Democrats said exceeded his powers under the US Constitution and usurped the authority of Congress. The administration said a court decision was needed quickly because it needs to spend the money before the end of September, when the federal government's fiscal year ends.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday handed President Donald Trump a victory by letting his administration redirect \$2.5 billion in money approved by Congress for the Pentagon to help build his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border even though lawmakers refused to provide funding.

The conservative-majority court on a 5-4 vote with the court's liberals in dissent blocked in full a ruling by a federal judge in California barring the Republican president from spending the money on

the basis that Congress did not specifically authorize the funds to be spent on the wall project fiercely opposed by Democrats and Mexico's government.

"Wow! Big VICTORY on the Wall. The United States Supreme Court overturns lower court injunction, allows Southern Border Wall to proceed. Big WIN for Border Security and the Rule of Law!" Trump tweeted just minutes after the court acted.

A brief order explaining the court's decision said the government "made a sufficient showing" that the groups challenging the decision did not have grounds to bring a lawsuit.

"Today's decision to permit the diversion of military funds for border wall construction will wall off and destroy communities, public lands, and waters in California, New Mexico, and Arizona," said Gloria Smith, an attorney with environmental group the Sierra Club, which sued to block the funds.

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