



U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight

Senator Rand Paul, M.D. (Kentucky), Chairman



WASTE REPORT for September 14, 2015

Federal Yoga: Bend, Stretch, Waste

Maybe you saw a Groupon for yoga classes and considered it, but, even at a discount you were not sure you wanted to spend the money.

Well, if you were an employee at certain federal agencies you would not have to worry about cost, as the U.S. taxpayer picks up the tab. That's right, a variety of federal agencies in a number of locations provide "free" yoga classes to employees. But these classes are not free; **since 2013, they have cost taxpayers over \$150,000.**¹

The **State Department spends \$15,000 for yoga in the nation's capital.** A yoga instructor in from Berkeley, California is paid \$4,000 a year from the Department of Agriculture's Research Service.

Of course, **the Department of Energy**, which the *Waste Report* highlighted trying to buy the Cadillac of treadmills earlier this year, has gotten in on taxpayer financed yoga; but for \$11,000 annually they also offer pilates at a California location. Another agency aligning its chakras is **the Environmental Protection Agency.**

The Railroad Retirement Board spends \$11,000 annually for yoga classes for office workers at its Chicago headquarters. Strangely, they reported that participants were initially charged for the class, but **in some kind of weird reversal of economic principles, there was so much demand, the agency decided to start picking up the tab in 2010.**

Not all agencies that offer employees yoga at work also pay the cost; many agencies, including the U.S. Senate, require participants to pay for the class.

Government, bending over backwards to waste your money.²

¹ All data in this *Waste Report* was obtained through USASpending.gov or through correspondence with agencies legislative affairs or inspectors general offices.

² Note: the Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest purchaser of yoga services in the federal government, followed by the Department of Defense, but many of these classes are for rehabilitation of wounded soldiers or other service related ailments and were thus excluded from this report.