



## Policy Brief - Initial Trump Administration Health Care Executive Orders 1-21-2025

### Introduction:

On Jan. 20, 2025, newly inaugurated President Trump signed dozens of Executive Orders concerning a number of GOP policy priorities, including but not limited to: immigration and border security, trade and economic policy, the federal workforce, energy and environmental policy, law and order, and social policies. While health care was not a primary focus of these executive actions, President Trump did withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization and revoked several Biden-era actions related to health policy. Executive Orders are directives from the president that manage operations of the federal government, have the effect of law, may be promulgated by government agencies, and may be overturned by judicial review if they lack support by existing law or the Constitution. A summary of significant health care-related executive actions can be found below.

### New Orders:

[Withdrawing The United States From The World Health Organization](#) – Jan. 20, 2025

This order notices the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). The Trump administration listed "the organization's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic," its failure to adopt urgently needed reforms," and "its inability to demonstrate independence from the inappropriate political influence of WHO member states" as primary motivators behind the withdrawal. The order also lists the U.S.' [outsized share of assessed contributions](#) (a country's membership dues) in relation to other WHO member-states as a reason for withdrawal. The order directs the National Security Council to establish protocols to safeguard public health and biosecurity, pauses future transfers of U.S. government funds to the WHO, recalls government personnel working with the WHO, and rescinds the 2024 U.S. Global Health Security Strategy. Additionally, the order revokes [Executive Order 13987 \(Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security\)](#), which indicates the government's intent to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a coordinated manner. The order sets a 12-month withdrawal timeline and orders the Secretary of State to cease negotiations on the [WHO Pandemic Agreement](#) and amendments to the [International Health Regulations](#) while withdrawal is in progress.

[Regulatory Freeze](#) - January 20, 2025

This order requires all executive departments and agencies to take the following steps:

- Agencies cannot propose or issue any rules without them first being reviewed and approved by a department or agency head appointed or designated by President Trump.
- Agencies must withdraw any rules that have been sent to the *Federal Register* but have not yet been published, for review and approval by the new agency head.
- Agencies must consider postponing for 60 days any rules that have been published or otherwise issued but have not yet taken effect, to be reviewed for questions of fact, law, and

policy. If there are substantial questions of fact, law, or policy, agencies should take further action in consultation with the OMB.

### **Revocation of Previous Orders:**

[Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#) – Jan. 20, 2025

This order **revokes** dozens of executive actions from the Biden administration. Several health care related actions were revoked, including:

- [Executive Order 13995 of January 21, 2021 \(Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery\)](#). - The revoked order aimed to establish a fair response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic and established a COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force within HHS. It offered recommendations on reducing health inequalities faced by people of color and other underserved communities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rescission of the order falls in line with the Trump administration's stated intent to remove "diversity, equity, and inclusion" policies facilitated by the previous administration.
- [Executive Order 13996 of January 21, 2021 \(Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats\)](#). - The revoked order aimed to assemble a COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board, while guaranteeing the development of a sustainable public health workforce to combat COVID-19 and other viral threats. The Testing Board established a unified federal testing approach, designed to expand the supply of COVID-19 tests, increasing laboratory testing capacity, and bolster the U.S. public health workforce. Rescission of the order falls in line with the Trump administration's stated intent to terminate COVID-19 pandemic-era policies from the Biden administration.
- [Executive Order 13997 of January 21, 2021 \(Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19\)](#). - The revoked order aimed to increase Americans' access to COVID-19 treatments. It specifically directed the HHS Secretary to support new studies of breakthrough COVID-19 treatments and future public health threats, expand research in rural hospitals, and study the long-term effects of proposed treatments. Additionally, it directed the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and HHS to operationalize the production, assignment, and distribution of COVID-19 treatments in critical and long-term care institutions and assessed coverage barriers for COVID-19 treatments in public and private insurance plans. Rescission of the order falls in line with the Trump administration's stated intent to terminate COVID-19 pandemic-era policies from the Biden administration.
- [Executive Order 14009 of January 28, 2021 \(Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act\)](#). - The revoked order established a Special Enrollment Period for those seeking coverage within the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Federally Facilitated Marketplace, in response to insurance gaps facilitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also directed agencies with oversight of the ACA and Medicaid to review existing regulations that may present barriers to coverage for underinsured or uninsured Americans, while revoking two executive actions from the previous Trump administration geared towards ACA reform. Rescission of this order falls in line with the second Trump administration's [stated intent to enact regulatory reform of the ACA](#).
- [Executive Order 14070 of April 5, 2022 \(Continuing To Strengthen Americans' Access to Affordable, Quality Health Coverage\)](#). - The revoked order aimed to ensure Americans' access to affordable, high-quality health care by restating the administration's commitment for that goal. It specifically highlights the Biden Administration's previous actions geared towards expanding access to health insurance coverage, such as the American Rescue Plan Act. It

reiterates previous goals to maintain and enhance Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, the order directs agencies with health care jurisdiction to explore avenues for expanding affordable health coverage. Rescission of this order falls in line with the second Trump administration's [stated intent to enact regulatory reform of the ACA](#)

- [Executive Order 14087 of October 14, 2022 \(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans\)](#). – The revoked order reiterated the Biden administration's support for lowering prescription drug costs, outlining the cost-reducing measures of the Inflation Reduction Act and other health care related executive orders. It also directed the HHS Secretary to consider new health care payment and delivery models that would lower drug costs and promote access to innovative therapies, and test selected models through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center). The order directed the HHS Secretary to submit a report describing any new models that had been selected and implement a timeline to test such models via the Innovation Center. Rescission of this order falls in line with the Trump administration's stated goal of rescinding "overly burdensome" federal regulations.
- [Executive Order 14099 of May 9, 2023 \(Moving Beyond COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Federal Workers\)](#). – The revoked order rescinded previous COVID-19 vaccination requirements for federal government employees and federal contractors. Although the order rescinded the vaccination mandate itself, it espoused support for vaccinations as an important tool for protecting individuals from serious illness and defended the necessity of implementing the initial federal mandate. Rescission of this order falls in line with the Trump administration's stated goal of rescinding past and preventing future federal vaccination mandates and implementing reforms within the federal workforce.