

# Policy At A Glance:

## Key Executive Orders Impacting Health

*Since taking office on January 20, 2025, President Trump has signed over 70 executive orders targeting key areas, such as immigration, energy, trade, federal workforce, and healthcare. This brief provides an overview of key executive orders impacting health and healthcare that have been issued by the Trump Administration as of February 26, 2025.*

### Introduction

Since taking office on January 20, 2025, President Trump has signed over 70 executive orders (EOs), the most in a president's first 100 days in more than 40 years.<sup>1</sup> These EOs include banning gender transitions for individuals under 19; revoking birthright citizenship; imposing significant tariffs; restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives; addressing "gender radicalism" in the military; and granting pardons to January 6, 2021 rioters.<sup>2</sup>

He has also issued EOs to reverse Biden-era health policies through executive orders, signaling a shift in federal healthcare priorities and advancing his "Make America Healthy Again" agenda, though most require further action, such as new rulemaking or congressional action, for full implementation.<sup>3</sup> These EOs have raised significant concerns due to their potentially negative implications across various sectors, particularly affecting marginalized communities, healthcare funding, and global initiatives. Collectively, these EOs pose significant challenges to public health, civil rights, and the stability of the healthcare system.

This brief provides an overview of key executive orders impacting health and healthcare that have been issued by the Trump Administration as of February 26, 2025.

### Other Health-Related Executive Orders<sup>4</sup>

- 14150** Redefinition of Sex Under Federal Law
- 14158** Establishment of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)
- 14169** Reduction of Federal Funding for Medical Research
- 14182** Enforcing the Hyde Amendment
- 14201** Prohibition of Transgender Individuals in Gender-Specific Sports
- Enforces E.O. 12877** Enforcement of Healthcare Price Transparency Regulations

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# Executive Orders on Healthcare and Social Policy

## **Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions (E.O. 14148)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions (E.O. 14148) revokes and nullifies multiple executive orders and actions from the Biden Administration, with a primary focus on rescinding DEI policies within the U.S. government, specific climate and environmental regulations, and certain border policies.<sup>5,6</sup> It also includes the reversal of actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, drug cost reduction, voting access, and civil immigration enforcement policies and priorities.<sup>5</sup>

## **Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing (E.O. 14151)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing (E.O. 14151) eliminates all federal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, policies, and mandates, including those tied to environmental justice.<sup>7,8</sup> However, on February 21, 2025, a federal judge in Maryland blocked key provisions of E.O. 14151, including the termination of equity related grants and contracts, citing potential violations of constitutional principles.<sup>9,10</sup>

## **Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (E.O. 14168)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (E.O. 14168) establishes U.S. policy recognizing only male and female sexes.<sup>11</sup> It also directs the Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Office of Personnel Management to ensure government issued identification, such as passports, reflect an individual's biological sex, excluding gender identity.<sup>11,12</sup>

## **Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation (E.O. 14187)**

Signed on January 28, 2025, Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation (E.O. 14187) restricts federal support for gender-affirming care for individuals under 19, such as surgeries, hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and other gender-affirming treatments, and establishes strict enforcement of laws limiting such procedures.<sup>13,14</sup> However, federal courts in Maryland and Washington issued temporary injunctions to prevent enforcement of E.O. 14187 to allow providers to continue operating without federal funding risks.<sup>14</sup>

## **Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission (E.O. 14212)**

Signed on February 13, 2025, the Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission (E.O. 14212) directs federal agencies to aggressively address rising health issues, including mental health disorders, obesity, and diabetes.<sup>15,16</sup> It establishes the Make America Healthy Again Commission, composed of officials across the federal government, to advise on childhood chronic disease and commissions studies on promoting healthy childhood weight.<sup>16,17</sup>

## **Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization (E.O. 14216)**

Signed on February 18, 2025, the Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization (E.O. 14216) expands access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) by reducing costs and removing barriers.<sup>18,19</sup> E.O. 14216 instructs President Trump's domestic policy chief to compile policy recommendations within 90 days to safeguard IVF access and reduce costs for individuals.<sup>19</sup> While E.O. 14216 seeks to make IVF more affordable, it does not create new rights or guarantees, relying instead on existing laws and available funding for implementation.<sup>20</sup>

# Executive Orders on International Health

## **Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization (E.O. 14155)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization (E.O. 14155) mandates the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO and revokes prior actions that reversed the 2020 withdrawal. It also recalls U.S. personnel from the WHO and seeks alternative partners for its functions.<sup>21</sup> The withdrawal will likely place significant pressure on the global community, ultimately leading to poorer health outcomes for both Americans and the world as the U.S. was the largest contributor to the WHO.<sup>22</sup>

## **Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid (E.O. 14169)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid (E.O. 14169) ordered a 90-day pause on new foreign development aid and fund disbursements to countries, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and contractors while agencies assess program efficiency and alignment with U.S. foreign policy.<sup>23,24</sup> Agencies must decide whether to continue, modify, or end each program, with final approval from the Secretary of State.<sup>24</sup>

## **Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements (E.O. 14162)**

Signed on January 20, 2025, the Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements (E.O. 14162) directs the U.S. to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement and related United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) pacts, rescinding financial and policy commitments to international climate initiatives.<sup>25</sup> It aims to prioritize economic efficiency and American

prosperity in global energy affairs while preserving and maintaining legal authority of executive agencies and the responsibilities of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).<sup>26</sup>

## **Withdrawing the United States from Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations (E.O. 14199)**

Signed on February 4, 2025, the Withdrawing the United States from Ending Funding to Certain United Nations (UN) Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations (E.O. 14199) ends U.S. participation in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), halts funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and calls for a reassessment of commitments to the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other UN bodies.<sup>27,28</sup> It also directs a 180-day review of all international organizations, treaties, and conventions to identify those contrary to U.S. interests and assess potential reforms.<sup>28</sup>

## **Tariffs Imposed on Imports from Canada, Mexico, and China**

Three executive orders signed on February 1, 2025, impose additional tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China. The executive orders specified a 25% tariff on all imports from Canada and Mexico, with a reduced 10% tariff on Canadian energy resources, and a 10% tariff on all imports from China.<sup>29</sup> The new imports is likely to increase the cost of generic drugs and medical supplies in the U.S. and exacerbate existing drug shortages.<sup>30</sup>

## Conclusion

President Trump's recent executive orders have introduced significant uncertainty. While their full impacts remain unclear, the policy shifts are expected to affect nearly all sectors of the healthcare industry.<sup>31</sup> By reducing access to care, stripping protections from vulnerable populations, and diminishing the role of the U.S. in global health initiatives, these policies could have long-term, detrimental effects on both domestic and international health outcomes.

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## Did you know?

President Trump has signed more first-day executive orders than any recent president, signing 26 executive orders on January 20, 2025.<sup>32</sup>



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
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Institute for Health Policy and Leadership

11209 Anderson Street  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
Phone: 909-558-7022  
Fax: 909-558-5638  
www.IHPL.llu.edu

Questions?

Please contact Renée Chuang, MS,  
Doctoral Graduate Assistant at the  
Institute for Health Policy & Leadership  
(RChuang@llu.edu).