



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization

Executive Order #14155

Date Issued: January 20, 2025

Topic: Health

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This order directs the United States to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) due to concerns over its handling of global health crises, lack of reform, and disproportionate financial demands on the U.S.
- The order revokes former President Biden's 2021 [Presidential Letter](#) that retracted the 2020 withdrawal, which previously reestablished U.S. engagement with the WHO.
- The order halts all future transfers of U.S. government funds, support, or resources to the WHO and recalls all U.S. personnel or contractors working with the organization. Additionally, it mandates a review and replacement of the 2024 U.S. Global Health Security Strategy and requires the identification of credible international partners to assume responsibilities previously handled by the WHO.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The Secretary of State is required to immediately inform the United Nations Secretary-General and WHO leadership of the U.S. withdrawal. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget must take steps to ensure the immediate suspension of all U.S. government funding to the WHO. The order also mandates the recall and reassignment of U.S. personnel and contractors working with the WHO in any capacity.
- The National Security Council will establish new mechanisms to safeguard public health and biosecurity, while federal agencies will identify and collaborate with alternative partners for global health initiatives. Additionally, the Director of the White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy must review and replace the 2024 U.S. Global Health Security Strategy as soon as possible.
- During the withdrawal process, the Secretary of State will cease all negotiations related to the WHO Pandemic Agreement and amendments to International Health Regulations, ensuring they have no binding effect on the United States.





HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The withdrawal from [WHO](#) will have significant implications for Black communities, particularly regarding access to global health resources, pandemic preparedness, and public health initiatives. The decision to cut ties with the WHO could lead to a shift in international health partnerships, potentially impacting the availability of global research, vaccines, and disease response efforts that disproportionately affect Black and other marginalized communities.
- The U.S. withdrawal from the WHO will also have profound consequences for Black communities. The WHO plays a [critical role in shaping guidelines for maternal and infant health, including interventions for preterm births, which disproportionately impact Black families in the U.S. and globally](#). Without the WHO's coordination, data-sharing, and expertise, Black communities will face heightened risks of poor health outcomes due to gaps in research, reduced availability of life-saving interventions, and weakened public health infrastructure.
- The WHO also leads efforts to combat infectious diseases that disproportionately affect marginalized populations. By withdrawing, the U.S. risks delayed responses to emerging health threats and reduced [access to critical data, including influenza and COVID-19 strain tracking, which informs vaccine development](#). Since Black communities have historically experienced higher rates of chronic conditions and infectious diseases, such disruptions could exacerbate existing health inequities, leading to higher hospitalization and mortality rates.
- Additionally, the WHO supports initiatives to mitigate environmental health risks—such as pollution exposure and inadequate sanitation—that disproportionately burden Black neighborhoods, further underscoring the potential harm of withdrawal. While the U.S. may attempt to redirect funds to alternative health initiatives, the effectiveness of such efforts will depend on whether they can match the WHO's global reach and expertise. If domestic policies fail to fill the gaps left by the WHO's absence, [Black communities may experience worsening health disparities due to reduced funding for prevention, treatment, and research](#).
- Ultimately, the long-term impact will hinge on whether the U.S. can develop a robust health strategy that prioritizes equity, maintains access to global disease surveillance, and ensures continued investment in the well-being of historically marginalized populations.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

Twelve Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) members, including **Rep. Terri A. Sewell**, Chair of the CBCF Board of Directors, signed onto a letter that urged President Trump to reverse this executive order. The letter states: "Our participation in WHO translates into incalculable goodwill in countries around the world. The United States has long been a leader in global health partnerships, and we should not cede that title." [Full Statement](#)