The Future of Public Health Under President Trump: Threats to Environmental Health and Justice

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(Partial) Timeline of Political Interference in Science

January
- January 3: House Republicans revive the Holman Rule
- January 5: House of Representatives passes REINS Act
- January 11: House of Representatives passes the Regulatory Accountability Act
- January 23: CDC cancels Climate and Health Summit
- January 27: President Trump signs EO 13769, restricting immigration of individuals from predominantly Muslim countries

February
- February 2: EPA withdraws information request for oil and gas companies to report sources of methane emissions
- February 12: EPA staff pulled from Alaska Forum on the Environment
- February 16: The Congressional Review Act is used to overturn the Stream Protection Rule
- February 28: President Trump signs EO 13771, establishing a two-for-one rule on regulations

March
- March 2: HHS discontinues the use of questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgendered (LGBQT) individuals in two surveys
- March 6: In response to a delay on EO 13769, President Trump signs EO 12780, imposing a 90-day ban on issuance of visas to six predominantly Muslim countries
- March 11: EPA Interferes with CBO assessment of HONEST Act
- March 15: Without consulting its own experts, EPA announces it will reexamine emission standards for light-duty vehicles
- March 21: DOL delays ruling that tightens standards for workplace beryllium exposure
- March 28: President Trump signs EO 13783, removing regulations that minimize the US carbon footprint and combat climate change
- March 29: EPA Administrator Pruitt rejects a petition to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos
Disregarding Science Threatens Kids’ Health
Putting Profits over People
Rolling Back Climate Change
Safeguards
Nixing Emissions Standards under the Clean Air Act

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is ignoring the science and putting our children’s health at risk.

LEARN MORE: ucsusa.org/EPApesticides
Callous disregard for Environmental Justice communities

Photo credits: Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (2014)
The United States faces extraordinary challenges such as combating climate change, protecting public health, and maintaining economic competitiveness. Every day, Americans hear the opinions of politicians, industry representatives, and media commentators on these topics. However, they only rarely hear from those whose daily work is critical to confronting these challenges: scientists and researchers at federal agencies. These scientists play a vital role in providing policy makers with the data and analyses they need to make the most informed decisions about our health, environment, and national security.

From 2005 to 2007, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) conducted five surveys of federal scientists to evaluate how U.S. agencies use—and misuse—science to make policy decisions. These surveys gave voice to scientists at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The results reveal extensive political interference in federal science, with serious and wide-ranging consequences for our health, safety, and environment. This interference has weakened the federal scientific enterprise and impaired the ability of U.S. agencies to serve the public interest, with the potential for long-lasting harm to the federal scientific work force.

Restoring integrity to federal science requires action by the president and the leaders of U.S. agencies, strong and sustained congressional oversight, and the persistent and energetic engagement of many different stakeholders. Together, we must work to protect federal scientist whistle-blowers who report abuses of science, improve public access to scientific information, and reform the regulatory process to ensure that policy decisions are informed by the best available scientific information.
Accomplishments

- Avoided science advice
- Put profits over protecting people
- Reduced public access to science