

## Withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO)

### **Administration Policy:**

President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled [Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). This EO notices the US' withdrawal from the WHO.

Additionally, the EO directs the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs to establish necessary mechanisms to safeguard public health and fortify biosecurity. The EO instructs the Secretary of State and Director of Office and Budget Management (OMB) to:

- pause any future transfers of US funds or resources to the WHO,
- recall and reassign any US Government personnel or contractors working with the WHO,
- and identify credible and transparent US and international partners to assume necessary global and public health activities previously undertaken by the WHO.

### **Background:**

- On April 14, 2020, President Trump [announced](#) the suspension of US contributions to the WHO pending an investigation of the organization's mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump also cited the vast difference in funding coming from the US in comparison to China.
  - On May 18, 2020, President Trump sent a [letter](#) to the Director-General of the WHO, explaining the suspension of US contributions to the WHO, listing the organization's failures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and their lack of independence from malign Chinese Communist Party (CCP) influence.
  - On July 6, 2020, the Trump administration [notified](#) Congress and the United Nations (UN) that the US would be formally withdrawing from the WHO.
  - This withdrawal was set to become effective [July 6, 2021](#), but President Biden reversed this action in a [letter](#), notifying the UN that the US would remain a member of the WHO.
  - The US is currently the top donor to the WHO, contributing close to [\\$1.3B from 2022-2023](#).
  - Despite this, the WHO continues to seem unduly influenced by China.
    - The Director-General for the WHO made his first international trip in 2017 to China, with the WHO describing the goal as a [“New vision and strengthened partnership for WHO and China.”](#)
- Last Congress, former Chairman Wenstrup of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic [stated](#), “We saw the WHO deny that COVID-19 was spread via human-to-human transmission, based entirely on the word of the Chinese government.”