



### **Presidential Action**

Date Issued: March 14, 2025

Topic: Economic Opportunity, Environmental Justice, Health, LGBTQ Issues

#### WHAT DOES THIS PRESIDENTIAL ACTION DO?

- This action overturns six executive orders, five presidential memorandums, five presidential determinations, and two national security memorandums implemented by former President Joe Biden.
- The action repeals presidential actions that cover a wide range of issues, from increased worker protections and expanded funding for clean energy to preparation for future pandemics and advocacy for LGBTQ rights around the world.

### **HOW WILL THIS PRESIDENTIAL ACTION BE ENFORCED?**

- This action overturns 18 presidential actions from the Biden Administration. The action brings the tally to 96 total rescinded presidential actions, as President Trump overturned <u>78 executive actions</u> from previous administrations during his first week in office.
- The actions takes effect immediately as the President has unilateral authority to rescind executive actions.

#### **HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?**

The executive orders that President Trump rescinded affect worker protections, clean energy, and LGBTQ issues. Of the executive actions listed within this action, the ten outlined below have the most consequential policy implications for Black Americans.

# Executive Order #13994: <u>Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and</u> <u>Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats</u>

President Biden signed this executive order on January 21, 2021, at the
height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The order organized the federal
government's response to COVID-19, encouraged information sharing
between researchers working on COVID-19 treatments, and instructed
federal agencies to create a national system for public health data that
would assist in monitoring future pandemics. In 2020, Black Americans
had the highest COVID-19 mortality rates of any ethnic group, which
systemic inequities exacerbated. By rescinding this executive order in the
midst of a rise in bird flu cases and a measles outbreak, the Trump
Administration is leaving Black Americans vulnerable to potentially fatal
diseases.

## <u>Advancing the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Persons Around the World</u>

 President Biden signed this National Security Memorandum (NSM) on February 4, 2021. The memo established LGBTQ+ rights as a key principle of American diplomacy and a point of global advocacy for the national security community. There are over one million Black LGBTQ+ adults in the United States, but homosexuality is illegal in more than 30 countries around the world. By repealing this NSM, President Trump has removed the safeguards for LGBTQ+ Americans who travel abroad. Organizations that support LGBTQ+ communities have ramped up their fundraising efforts, concerned that this may be part of a larger signal by the Trump Administration that the United States is not allied with the global LGBTQ+ community, which includes millions of Black people.

### **HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?**

### Executive Order #14026: <u>Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal</u> Contractors

President Joe Biden signed this executive order on April 27, 2021. The order increased the minimum wage for federal contractors to \$15 per hour with a yearly raise to accommodate inflation. When the policy was first enacted, the Biden-Harris administration predicted that it would increase the pay of more than 300,000 workers. By repealing this executive order, the Trump Administration will reduce the hourly wages of thousands of Black Americans. In the long term, eliminating the competitive pay structure may disincentivize contractors from working with the federal government.

### Presidential Determinations <u>2022-15</u>, <u>2022-16</u>, <u>2022-17</u>, and <u>2022-18</u>

President Biden issued these presidential determinations on June 6, 2022.
In the determinations, he ordered the Secretary of Energy to use Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to manufacture sustainable energy products domestically, from insulation for homes to electric heat pumps. This directive was a part of the Green New Deal policy agenda that Democrats proposed to address environmental racism and build climate resilience across the United States. By rescinding these executive actions, the Trump Administration is signaling that it will not use federal resources to address climate change, which disproportionately impacts communities of color.

# Executive Order #14081: <u>Advancing Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy</u>

President Biden signed this executive order on September 12, 2022. The
order initiated the Biden Administration's investment in the biotechnology
field in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and outlined the federal
government's commitment to equity and sustainability when contracting
with companies to support the bioeconomy. By rescinding this order,
President Trump continues his attack on diversity, equity, and inclusion
efforts at the expense of innovation and a diverse federal workforce.

### **HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?**

# Executive Order #14119: <u>Scaling and Expanding the Use of Registered</u> <u>Apprenticeships in Industries and the Federal Government and Promoting Labor-Management Forums</u>

President Biden signed this executive order on March 6, 2024. The order created a Registered Apprenticeship Interagency Working Group, whose mission was to provide a pathway for people without a college degree to attain government jobs through paid apprenticeships. In 2023, only 35% of Black adults had an associate's degree or higher educational attainment. By rescinding this order, President Trump is restricting opportunities for Americans who have not attended college to work in the federal government, which includes nearly two-thirds of Black adults.

### Executive Order #14126: <u>Investing in America and Investing in American</u> Workers

• President Joe Biden signed this executive order on September 6, 2024. The order provided guidance on funding allocation for the <u>Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS)</u> and Science Act, which authorized \$280 million to build semiconductors domestically, and the <u>Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)</u>, which outlined a plan for clean energy and infrastructure innovation. The order directed the agencies who implemented both pieces of legislation to prioritize funding projects that would use union labor and demonstrate a commitment to worker's rights. Black workers have the <u>highest unionization rates</u> in the country, and by repealing this executive order, President Trump is punishing companies that allow their employees to organize and advocate for fair wages and working conditions, which disproportionately impacts Black workers.

### **HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?**

- Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) members are pushing to pass legislation that codifies some of the worker protections that President Trump eliminated in this executive order. On March 5, 2025, Rep. Bobby Scott and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries introduced the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which encourages workers to unionize and holds corporations accountable for protecting workers' rights. The bill has garnered support from more than 50 CBC members.
  - Rep. Bobby Scott: "Unions are essential for building a strong middle class and improving the lives of workers and families. Regrettably, for too long, workers have suffered from anti-union attacks and toothless labor laws that undermined their right to form a union. As a historic number of Americans put their support behind labor unions, Congress has an urgent responsibility to ensure that workers can join a union and negotiate for higher pay, better benefits, and safer workplaces."
     Full Statement
- The CBC has advocated for energy efficiency and has also emphasized the importance of interventions that reduce pollution in marginalized communities. In 2022, the CBC endorsed both the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the IRA. Former CBC Chair Rep. Steven Horsford issued the following statement after discussing the legislation with Biden Administration officials in 2023:
  - "The historic infrastructure package is investing billions across the country to create good union jobs, grow our small businesses, and protect our communities from climate change. Our discussion with Mitch Landrieu focused on how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will create a more equitable and just future for all families, especially Black Americans. We want to ensure that every part of the Administration involved with the deployment of these funds is keeping a focus on the local impact, the local job creation, and the local investment. Working together we can make sure this historic investment also means that transformational change for the American people is on the way." Full Statement