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President Trump Calls for Rationing Health and Safety in 'One In, Two Out' Executive Order on Public Protections

Robert Verchick, President of the Center for Progressive Reform, released the following statement on President Donald Trump's "one in, two out" executive order on public protections:

"This morning, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to eliminate two public protections for every new rule they put in place. Short-sighted regulatory budgeting of this sort is not a new idea, but it's a particularly poor one. It seeks to ration the American people's health and safety by forcing agencies to arbitrarily drop rules, even if those regulations prevent illnesses, reduce exposure to toxic chemicals, or decrease the number of deaths and serious injuries in the workplace. By focusing on the often-exaggerated costs of regulations, the order ignores the enormous, life-saving benefits that public safeguards deliver to us all. This is not effective government, it won't create jobs, and it won't improve our communities.

"Furthermore, regulatory budgeting approaches like this executive order risk leaving people and the environment unprotected, particularly against new and emerging risks like those posed by nanotechnology, driverless cars, and many other important but untested technologies.

"Trump's executive order will also prove difficult for agencies to implement. All rules, even deregulatory ones, have to follow a set of procedural steps required by law, and agencies will run into significant hurdles in their rush to deregulate. The president's action will also spark years of lawsuits, wasting limited resources that should instead be spent effectively enforcing our health, safety, environmental, and other laws."

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