

# Obama's Use of Executive Orders, to Bypass Gridlock

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## **To the Editor:**

[“How the President Came to Embrace Executive Power”](#) (“The Obama Era” series, front page, Aug. 14) relied on data from George Washington University’s Regulatory Studies Center, a think tank headed by Susan Dudley, who served as regulatory czar during the George W. Bush administration.

In fact, by any measure, the Obama administration’s efforts to protect public health, worker and consumer safety, and the environment are sweeping only as compared with the Bush administration’s efforts to roll back regulatory protections.

The claim that President Obama produced “a canon of regulations that have inserted the United States government more deeply into American life” further ignores the fact that the most controversial rules were specifically mandated by Congress or upheld by the Supreme Court.

Yes, these rules will cost money, but they will save hundreds of thousands of lives and millions of lost days off from work and school because of illness.

Counting the rules as if they were uniform widgets and then comparing the total with the numerical output of other administrations is misleading because it does not consider the benefits of each rule for society.

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