

American Public Health Association (APHA) Legislative Update on International Health

February 10, 2025

Trump administration attempts to roll back America's international health efforts

On Jan. 20, the Trump administration announced in [an executive order](#) its intent to withdraw from the World Health Organization. On Jan. 28, APHA joined 113 other organizations in sending [a letter to the Trump administration](#) urging against withdrawal, citing the importance of American leadership in international health. The letter outlines the essential work done by the WHO, working with over 150 nations to combat deadly diseases and monitoring over 100,000 health threats every month. This work has resulted in the global eradication of smallpox, the elimination of polio in 145 countries, and 44 countries and territories being declared malaria-free. This ongoing work is essential to combating new and emerging health threats like fentanyl and bird flu.

In addition to the action taken to withdraw from the WHO, APHA is very concerned about the administration's efforts to stifle the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development. So far, the Trump administration has frozen most U.S. foreign aid, targeted USAID for closure, and even gone as far as locking USAID employees out of the building. USAID plays a key role in extending U.S. assistance to countries recovering from disaster, working to escape poverty and engaging in democratic reforms. These drastic actions being taken by the Trump administration to stifle the agency will harm the health of millions.

APHA will continue to work with Congress and the administration to protect essential international health efforts that keep communities around the world healthy.