

A Guide to Trump's Executive Orders August 14, 2020

On Saturday, August 8, President Trump issued Executive Orders aimed at helping the American people while Congress remains unable to reach an agreement on a new coronavirus stimulus bill. It remains to be seen if any there will be any legal challenges to the Executive Orders. Alternatively, Congress could pass a coronavirus stimulus package, which would supersede the Executive Orders. While Intelligent Partnerships always strives to bring our partners the most up-to-date information, it should be noted that these Executive Orders continue to change. This guide is meant to be used as a reference; any legal questions should be directed to a lawyer.

Federal Unemployment

THE ORDER

The Executive Order provided for an extension of Federal Unemployment at a lower rate of \$400. However, his order required that states paid for 25% of the Federal Unemployment (or \$100), which is difficult for states that are already seeing financial difficulties during the pandemic. Some analysts believe that [existing state unemployment can qualify as the \\$100](#).

WHAT TO WATCH

The resulting \$300 Federal Unemployment would be funded from unspent FEMA funds, and they would be retroactively paid from August 1 (the day after the previous Federal Unemployment expired), but there will likely be a legal challenge since Congress—not the President—has “the power of the purse”. It is also unclear how long the \$300 could be funded through this current method.

Student Loan Deferral Extension

THE ORDER

President Trump extended the moratorium on student loan payments and continued to prevent the accrual of interest. Payments and interest shall continue on January 1, 2021.

WHAT TO WATCH

The extension only applies to loans held by The Department of Education, not loans held by banks or other private entities.

Payroll Tax Cut

THE ORDER

From September 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, workers earning less than \$100,000 will defer payments made to Social Security and Medicare until after December 31, 2020.

WHAT TO WATCH

The payroll tax cut is temporary, and—as of right now—workers will have to pay back the uncollected taxes after December 31, 2020. Many employers are not planning on observing the payroll tax cut, citing the hardship that workers would face when having to repay the deferral. Additionally, many are questioning if it is wise to defer money to programs (Social Security and Medicare) that are already struggling financially.

Eviction Order Protections

THE ORDER

The order leaves the decision in the hands of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield.

WHAT TO WATCH

It remains to be seen in Secretary Azar and/or Director Redfield will issue a ban on evictions. Experts estimate that up to 40 million Americans could lose their homes without explicit protection from evictions.

Intelligent Partnerships brings decades of experience helping clients in diversity management, strategic engagement, and workforce development. We encourage our partner organizations to prioritize our community's health and safety and remain an available resource. Should you have any questions or need policy design and implementation support, please feel free to contact me or our team at

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Respectfully,

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Sources and Resources

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