

Episode 57CM January 29 2025 World Health Organization PM2.5 limit of 5 micrograms per cubic meter

In Episode 57CM 1 World 2 United States 3 Iowa Main Content 1A World Leaving the W H O Could Hurt Americans on a Range of Health Matters President Trump decision to pull out of the international health agency could deprive the United States of crucial scientific data and lessen the country influence in setting a global health agenda

RAWSEP View The World Health Organization safe limit for PM2.5 is 5 micrograms per cubic meter annually which is lower than the United States safe limit for PM2.5 which is 9 micrograms per cubic meter annually For that reason alone RAWSEP admires and wishes the United States would emulate the W H O realistic and humane standards based on medical and scientific research data The many fields including human health and environmental regulation that W H O encompasses pave the way for countries around the world to benefit from humane policies based on science and truth

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization January 29 2025 President Trump decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization could have harsh consequences for countries around the world that rely on the agency to achieve important health goals including routine immunizations outbreak control and nutrition programs But it could also have unfortunate unintended repercussions for Americans Disengaging from the W H O would rob the United States of crucial information about emerging outbreaks like mpox and resurgent dangers like malaria and measles public health experts said It may also give more power to nations like Russia and China in setting a global health agenda and it could hurt the interests of American pharmaceutical and health technology companies The W H O work touches American lives in myriad ways The agency compiles the International Classification of Diseases the system of diagnostic codes used by doctors and insurance companies It assigns generic names to medicines that are recognizable worldwide Its extensive flu surveillance network helps select the seasonal flu vaccine each year The agency also closely tracks resistance to antibiotics and other drugs keeps American travelers apprised of health threats and studies a wide range of issues such as teen mental health substance use and aging which may then inform policies in the United States Though it will take a year for the withdrawal to take effect and it is not entirely clear that it can happen without congressional approval Mr Trump announcement has already prompted drastic cost cutting measures at the W H O the W H O was months late in acknowledging that the coronavirus was airborne and that the virus could spread in the absence of symptoms Yet there is no other organization that can match the W H O reach or influence in the world The W H O has a modest budget totaling \$68 billion for 2024 and 2025 For comparison the health department of the state of Rhode Island spent just over \$6 billion in 2024 alone The United States is the W H O largest donor accounting for nearly 15 percent of its planned budget For the two year 2024 to 2025 budget \$264 million was the United States donation and \$181 million was the China donation a difference of 31 percent \$442 million in voluntary contributions for 2024 to 2025 was from the United States while China has given only \$2.5 million in voluntary contributions for 2024 to 2025 China total contribution is about 74 percent less than the United States contribution If the United States loses access to the W H O information and data sharing online reports and informal communications remaining may be muffled filtered or marred by misinformation The W H O and other countries are not obligated to share information such as genetic sequences with the United States let alone heed its advice if the country is not a member If we are not there we do not get to have a voice at all The W H O began in 1948 as a branch of the United Nations focused on global health Over the decades it led the eradication of smallpox nearly vanquished polio and has helped control use of tobacco and trans fats Countries that do not have the equivalent of a CDC or a Food and Drug Administration rely on the W H O for public health guidelines childhood vaccinations and drug approvals among many other health efforts Ministries of health typically will not move unless there a W H O guideline allowing pharmaceutical and health technology companies to operate in countries that adhere closely to W H O recommendations Mr Trump has criticized the W H O for not holding China accountable early in the pandemic and for taking too long to declare the Covid 19 pandemic a public health emergency But the W H O cannot reprimand its member countries W H O has no power to compel countries to do anything China was not transparent and that hindered W H O response Mr Trump has also said that China has too much influence over the W H O But actually the real problem is that tiny Pacific islands with 100000 people have too much power It is unclear whether Mr Trump can unilaterally sever ties with the W H O Unlike most international agreements which may stem from executive action or require Senate ratification membership in the W H O was enshrined by a congressional joint resolution and may have to be dissolved by a congressional joint resolution If

Congress approves the United States must still give one year notice of withdrawal and fulfill its financial obligations for the year. Some experts worry that Mr Trump action will prompt nations like Hungary and Argentina to follow suit. Already Italy deputy prime minister has proposed a law to leave the W H O. US withdrawal may also empower authoritarian member states in the organization like Russia and China. Public health decisions in Russia and China are much more politically controlled and that a danger to everybody. None of us wants to live in a world where Russia has a larger voice in global health governance. In his executive order Mr Trump said the United States would cease negotiations on amendments to the International Health Regulations legally binding rules for countries to report emerging outbreaks to the W H O. But the latest amendments were adopted by the World Health Assembly last year and are expected to come into force in September. Ironically it was the first Trump administration that proposed the amendments because of frustration with the lack of transparency from certain countries during Covid 19. Said a woman who oversaw negotiations during the Biden administration. She also led negotiations for a pandemic treaty that would allow countries to work together during an international crisis. The treaty had been stalled and may now collapse.

2 RAWSEP Selected list of illegal Trump Executive Order Frozen Funds on January 28 2025 for the Environmental Protection Agency related to air pollution regulation and to National Science Foundation programs. A judge put a freeze on this order temporarily by the end of the day January 28 2025. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization**

Environmental Protection Agency Air Pollution Control Program Support \$68 mil
Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles Program None reported
Clean Ports Program None reported
Clean School Bus Program \$939 mil
Clean Water State Revolving Fund \$44 bil
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants \$5 mil
Diesel Emission Reduction Act DERA National Grants \$140 mil
Diesel Emissions Reduction Act DERA State Grants \$28 mil
Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program \$5 mil
Environmental Education Grants Program \$4 mil
Environmental Finance Center Grants \$5 mil
Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program and Related Assistance \$11 mil
Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Program \$43 mil
Environmental Justice Government to Government EJ2G Program \$81 mil
Environmental Justice Small Grant Program None reported
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program EJ TCGM \$182 mil
Environmental Policy and Innovation Grants \$101k
Environmental Protection Consolidated Grants for the Insular Areas Program Support \$166 mil
Financial Assistance For Community Support Activities To Address Environmental Justice Issues \$100k
Greenhouse Gas and Zero Emission On road Mobile Source Standards None reported
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Clean Communities Investment Accelerator \$60 bil
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund National Clean Investment Fund \$140 bil
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All \$7 mil
National Environmental Education Training Program \$2 mil
Pollution Prevention Grants Program \$17 mil
Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks \$40k
Senior Environmental Employment Program \$33 mil
State Senior Environmental Employment Program \$318k
Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings Grant Program \$11 mil
National Science Foundation National Science Foundation Biological Sciences \$972 mil
Computer and Information Science and Engineering \$12 bil
Engineering \$970 mil
Geosciences \$12 bil
Integrative Activities \$646 mil
Mathematical and Physical Sciences \$18 bil
NSF Technology Innovation and Partnerships \$12 bil
Office of International Science and Engineering \$71 mil
Polar Programs \$464 mil
Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences \$361 mil
STEM Education formerly Education and Human Resources \$15 bil

3 Iowa **RAWSEP View** Democrats still winning locally in the midst of or perhaps in response to national chaos. From the article headline Iowa Democrats flip Iowa State Senate seat in special election to cut into Republican majority. The main points that helped a Democrat win the seat are the fact that Republicans in the Iowa State Senate presided over stagnant wages and defunded schools and the state of Iowa under Republican control interfered in local control. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization**

Des Moines Register Tuesday January 28 2025 Iowa Democrats have flipped a state Senate seat vacated earlier this year by Chris Cournoyer who resigned to become the state new lieutenant governor. Democrat Mike Zimmer has defeated Republican Kate Whittington in the special election for Senate District 35. Zimmer won with 52% of the vote to Whittington 48%. The Democrat won on a platform of hard work fairness and lowering the cost of living. Although Republicans will maintain a firm hold on the chamber now with a 34 to 16 majority Democrats celebrated Tuesday evening. The Mike Zimmer victory in Senate District 35 which President Trump won in November with nearly 60% of the vote is a clear rejection of the Republican agenda led by Kim Reynolds and the Iowa State Senate Republicans.