

United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 17, 2007.

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NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 19.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting an Executive Order
Blocking Property of Additional
Persons in Connection With the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iraq**

July 17, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)(IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order blocking property of persons determined to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, an act or acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of threatening the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq or undermining efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq or to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people. I issued this order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, and expanded in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, and Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004. In these previous Executive Orders, I ordered various measures to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in that country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq.

My new order takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 and expanded in Executive Order 13315 by blocking the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, an act or acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of threatening the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq or undermining efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq or to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people. The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, to designate for blocking those persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, such an act or acts of violence or any person designated pursuant to this order, or to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order. I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 17, 2007.

**Remarks Following a Discussion on
Health Care in Landover, Maryland**
July 18, 2007

Today I've had a really good discussion about health care and health care problems with three business owners and employees of the small business with Secretary Leavitt

and Mark McClellan and Administrator Preston. I heard a common complaint, that health care is—the costs are too high; that small-business owners feel very pinched by these high costs; that they don't like the idea of having to make the decision between providing health care for their employees and not expanding their businesses.

And the fundamental question, given these frustrations, is what do we do about it as a nation? There is an interesting debate taking place in Congress, and there is a philosophical divide. Some in Congress believe the best solution to solving the frustrations of uninsured and high costs for small businesses is to expand the role of government. I have a different point of view. I believe the best way to deal with the frustrations of high cost of health care and uninsured is to change the Tax Code, is to make health care in the private sector more affordable and more available.

The debate in Congress is now centering around what's called SCHIP, which is the Children's Health Care Insurance Program. It was a program initially designed to help poor families afford health care for their children. I support that concept. As a matter of fact, the budget I submitted funds health care for poor children. Members of Congress have decided, however, to expand the program to include, in some cases, up to families earning \$80,000 a year, which would cause people to drop their private insurance in order to be involved with a government insurance plan.

And when you couple that with the idea that some have suggested of reducing the age at which you can be eligible for Medicare, you're beginning to get a sense of a strategy to grow the government role in the provision of health care. I believe government cannot provide affordable health care. I believe—it would cause the quality of care to diminish. I believe there would be lines and rationing over time. If Congress continues to insist upon expanding health care through the SCHIP program, which, by the way, would entail a huge tax increase for the American people, I'll veto the bill.

Our proposal is a strategy that says to small-business owners and individuals, we want you, one, to be in charge of your health

care system—health care decisions; and, two, we believe you're discriminated against in the Tax Code. You work for a large company, you get a tax break on your health care. You work for a small business and/or you're in the individual market, you don't get the same tax break. And that's unfair, and it's not right. And therefore, I have proposed to the United States Congress that we have a \$15,000 deductible for families and a \$7,500 deductible for individuals, all aimed at encouraging people to be able to afford insurance and aimed at the encouragement of the development of an individual market.

I believe strongly that small businesses ought to be afforded the chance to purchase health care across jurisdictional boundaries. Mike owns a small restaurant, he ought to be able to pool risk with restaurants in Texas or California or anywhere else, so he can better afford insurance. I want patients making decisions, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. I want the system to benefit the individual, the small-business owner, not large insurance companies.

And I really do believe that government involvement in health care will lead to less quality care and rationing over time. And therefore, we proposed a plan. I urge the Congress to work with us on making the Tax Code fair. I know there are different ideas as to whether or not there ought to be a \$15,000 deductible or a credit. I'm open-minded; I'm willing to listen. But what I'm not willing to listen to is a direct expansion of the Federal role in providing—a massive expansion of the Federal role in providing health care for individuals across the country.

Thank you all for having me. Cliff, thank you; you have a very interesting company here. I'm proud to be with small-business owners. I understand the role of small businesses in our society. We have worked to reduce taxes on small businesses because we want you to grow. And the fact that you are growing across the country collectively is one reason why our economy is so strong. And this economy is doing well. The unemployment rate is 4.5 percent; small businesses are growing; people are working; stock market is up; inflation is down. And we're going to keep it that way. One way you keep it that

way is to have good health care policy emanating out of Washington and another is to keep taxes low. And that's what we're going to do. So thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. at Man & Machine, Inc. Participating in the discussion were Mark B. McClellan, visiting senior fellow, AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies; Mike Kostinsky, owner, and Debbie Couch, manager, Sorrento of Arbutus; Clifton Broumand, president and chief executive officer, and Lenny Merryman, operations manager, Man & Machine, Inc.; and Phyllis Burlage, owner, and Lori Emmert, office manager, Burlage & Associates. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Import Safety Working Group

July 18, 2007

The American people expect their Government to work tirelessly to make sure consumer products are safe. And that is precisely what my administration is doing.

I've called together key members of my Cabinet to review the procedures in place, the regulations in place, the practices in place to make sure that our food supply remains the safest in the world. The world is changing, and in order to make sure that we can continue to have the confidence of our consumers, that we will continually review practices and procedures to assure the American consumer.

And so I've asked Mike Leavitt, the Secretary of HHS, to lead a task group that will report back to me in 60 days on a strategy that will review procedures in place and regulations in place to make sure that they're meeting the needs of a changing world; that part of our strategy is we work with our countries from which we import goods to make sure that their procedures and practices will give us comfort. And finally, we'll be working with companies that import goods from around the world to make sure that their practices meet the high standards that we set for the United States.

This is a serious issue—food safety and consumer safety is a serious issue. We take it seriously, and we spend a lot of time on it in this administration. So, Michael, I want

to thank you very much for taking on this task force. It's important for the American people to know their Government is on top of the situation and constantly reviewing procedures and practices. So thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Executive Order 13439— Establishing an Interagency Working Group on Import Safety

July 18, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to ensure that the executive branch takes all appropriate steps to promote the safety of imported products, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of Interagency Working Group on Import Safety. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish within the Department of Health and Human Services for administrative purposes only an Interagency Working Group on Import Safety (Working Group).

Sec. 2. Membership and Operation of Working Group.

(a) The Working Group shall consist exclusively of the following members, or their designees who shall be officers of the United States appointed by the President or members of the Senior Executive Service:

- (i) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as Chair;
- (ii) the Secretary of State;
- (iii) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (iv) the Attorney General;
- (v) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (vi) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (vii) the Secretary of Transportation;
- (viii) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (ix) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (x) the United States Trade Representative;
- (xi) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (xii) the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission; and