



President Trump Announces New Commission to Address the Opioid Epidemic

On March 29, President Donald Trump issued an executive order (EO) entitled Presidential Executive Order Establishing the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. The Commission's mission, as stated in the EO, is the following:

- identify and describe existing federal funding used to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis
- assess the availability and accessibility of drug addiction treatment services and overdose reversal throughout the country and identify areas that are underserved
- identify and report on best practices for addiction prevention, including healthcare provider education and evaluation of prescription practices and the use and effectiveness of state prescription drug monitoring programs
- review the literature evaluating the effectiveness of educational messages for youth and adults with respect to prescription and illicit opioids
- identify and evaluate existing federal programs to prevent and treat drug addiction for their scope and effectiveness and make recommendations for improving these programs
- make recommendations to the president for improving the federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (R) is expected to lead the Commission. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Tom Price, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, Defense Secretary James Mattis and up to five additional members will serve on the Commission.

The EO requires the Commission to submit a report to the president within 90 days of the issuance of the EO, providing interim findings and recommendations related to the areas identified above. A report containing final findings and recommendations is due by Oct. 1, unless the Chair of the Commission provides written notice to the President that an extension is necessary. Under the EO, the Commission will terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, unless extended by the President before that date.

If you have any questions regarding this Sidley Update, please contact the Sidley lawyer with whom you usually work or

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