

# Public Policy Notes

Southern Early Childhood Association

## President Trump, Executive Orders & Presidential Memoranda: His First Week

January 2017

Public Policy Notes

During his campaign, candidate Trump said he would act immediately on certain issues and he's keeping those campaign promises. During his first week in office he has implemented a number of Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda that are designed to address the issues on which he campaigned.

In this article, we'll give you a summary of the actions taken by President Trump during his first week in office. We'll also provide links to the full text of those documents so that you can do additional research on the content and tenor of the orders.

On the day of his inauguration, **January 20th**, he signed the [Executive Order Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal](#).

This Order does not repeal the **Affordable Care Act**; however, "In the meantime, pending such repeal, it is imperative for the executive branch to ensure that the law is being efficiently implemented, take all actions consistent with law to minimize the unwarranted economic and regulatory burdens of the Act, and

prepare to afford the States more flexibility and control to create a more free and open healthcare market." At this point in time, a proposed replacement plan is not available.

On **January 23rd**, he signed a [Presidential Memorandum Regarding Withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and Agreement](#). This withdrawal affects the trading partnerships with Asia, in particular China. President Trump has stated his intention to negotiate individually with countries that formed the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

On the same day, he instituted a [hiring freeze](#) for all federal civilian employees.

On **January 24th**, he then also issued a [Presidential Memorandum Regarding Construction of American Pipelines](#). Additional memoranda reversed President Obama's suspension of the [Keystone XL Pipeline](#) project and the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#). He also

issued an [Executive Order Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals For High Priority Infrastructure Projects](#).

On **January 25th**, he issued an [Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#) which dealt with immigration enforcement and included provisions to eliminate sanctuary cities.

He also issued an [Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements](#). Much has been reported about the "wall" and it is defined as "a contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier" in the order.

He promised immediate action on his big four issues upon taking office (immigration, infrastructure, trade and ACA). [Click here](#) for a complete list of Trump's presidential actions.

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### Marijuana and Kids

In our August 2016 issue of *Public Policy Notes*, we took a look at the unintended consequences of marijuana legalization laws in regard to children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a position statement in regard to the implementation of these laws and the need to protect children from unintended exposure.

[Click here](#) to find the rationale behind their statement.

# Betsy DeVos: Secretary of Education?

With the selection of Betsy DeVos to become Secretary of Education, President-Elect Trump opened up a discussion on the role of the Secretary and the background needed to fill that role.

Ms. DeVos is an American businesswoman, philanthropist and education activist who has a long history of advocacy for school choice and voucher programs but little political experience. She has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts in Michigan and served as Chair of the Michigan Republican Party from 2003-2005.

In 1989, she and her husband launched the [Dick & Betsy DeVos Family Foundation](#). According to the Foundation website:

*“Our faith motivates our giving; it is integral to who we are and what we do. Our giving is centered in cultivating leadership, accelerating transformation and leveraging support in five areas:*

## **Community**

*We endeavor to make West Michigan a desirable place to live by supporting efforts that lead to community transformation, improve community health and provide support for essential community needs.*

## **Education**

*We strive to be a catalyst for positive change by expanding choices and improving access opportunities primarily in K-12 education.*

## **Arts**

*Nationally and internationally, we build capacity in arts leaders and equip them to effectively manage and lead their organizations.*

## **Justice**

*Fundamentally, we believe all people have the right and access to justice. We support organizations that help free, rescue, or provide access to the oppressed and the vulnerable.*

## **Leadership**

*With intention, we aim to train, equip,*

*support and develop leaders.*

Ms. DeVos participated in a nomination hearing with the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions and generated concern among Democratic Senators about her lack of knowledge of many education programs, including the 40 year old IDEA law that provides services to children with disabilities. [Click here](#) to access a video of the hearing.

Democrats on the Committee requested a second hearing for Ms. DeVos but Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chair of the committee, rejected that request.

The Senate Committee will vote on her nomination on January 31st.



# Environmental Protection: *Oklahoma* AG Gets the Nod

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

Edward Scott Pruitt

President Trump has nominated Scott Pruitt, the [Attorney General of Oklahoma](#), for the position of Administrator of

the Environmental Protection Agency. This nomination has caused a great deal of controversy, primarily

because of Pruitt's actions against EPA regulations as Attorney General of Oklahoma.

Pruitt represented Tulsa and Wagoner counties in the Oklahoma Legislature from 1998 to 2006. In 2010, he was elected to serve as Attorney General of the state. He grew up in Kentucky and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tulsa in 1993.

A [nomination hearing for Mr. Pruitt](#) was held on January 18th and much of the focus of the hearing was on his position on climate change.

Pruitt recently joined in two lawsuits against EPA regulations with AG's from other states. One suit relates to the Clean Power Plan (reduction of greenhouse emissions) and the other with regulations to curtail emissions of methane, a product of oil & gas production.

# Trump Picks Many Southerners for Cabinet

The President's Cabinet is composed of heads of the major federal departments and, of 15 proposed nominees, four of those hail from Southern states.



**U.S. Attorney General**  
Jefferson Beauregard  
"Jeff" Sessions III

[Senator Sessions](#) is currently a U.S. Senator from the state of

**Alabama**. He was nominated by President Trump to be the U.S. Attorney General and faced a contentious [nomination hearing](#) beginning on January 10, 2017.

Sessions currently ranks 15th in seniority in the U.S. Senate, having been elected to the Senate in 1994. From 1981-1993, he served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and was elected Attorney General of Alabama in 1994. His nomination to the federal judiciary was killed by the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1986 and his failure to win nomination for that position was a point of discussion during his confirmation hearing. Much of the questioning during the hearing focused on his commitment to civil rights and an impartial prosecution of the position of U.S. Attorney General.



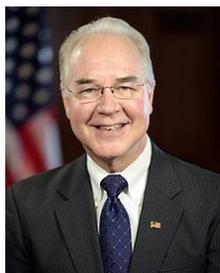
**Secretary of Agriculture**  
George Ervin "Sonny"  
Perdue III

Governor Perdue served as the 18st Governor of **Georgia** from 2003 to

2011. Upon his inauguration, he became the first Republican Governor of Georgia since Reconstruction.

He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1971 from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a military veteran and served in the Georgia General Assembly as a Senator from the 18th district from 1991-2001.

He currently serves on the Governors' Council for the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) in Washington, D.C. If confirmed, he will be only the second Secretary of Agriculture from the Deep South.



**Secretary of Health & Human Services**  
Thomas  
Edmunds  
"Tom" Price

Elected in 2005, [Tom Price](#) currently serves as the U.S. Representative for **Georgia's** 6th Congressional District which encompasses Atlanta. He serves as chairman of the House Budget Committee and previously served as chairman of the Republican Study Committee and the Republican Policy Committee.

Price graduated with a M.D. from the University of Michigan Health System and completed his residency at Emory University in Atlanta. He operated an orthopedic clinic in Atlanta for 20 years before returning to Emory as assistant professor of orthopedic surgery.

In 1996 Price won election to the Georgia Senate and served four terms.

**Secretary of Energy**

James Richard  
"Rick" Perry



Rick Perry served as the Governor of **Texas** from December 2000 to January 2015. In 1998 he was elected Lieutenant Governor and assumed the governorship when then-governor George W. Bush resigned to become president. Perry is the longest serving governor in Texas history. Prior to his service as Governor, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and also served as Texas Agriculture Commissioner.

He served as chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 2008 and again in 2011. He also ran unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012 and 2016.

## What's Next?

**Nomination hearings** were held for [Rick Perry](#) on January 19th and [Tom Price](#) on January 24th. A hearing for Sonny Perdue has not yet been scheduled.

Committee interviews are the first step toward confirmation of the nomination. A vote of the full Senate follows a positive committee recommendation. Politico.com posts a blog with [updated hearing info](#).

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Southern Early Childhood Association



"A Voice for Southern  
Children"

## How to Use Public Policy Notes

If you're interested in advocacy, one of the most effective tools that you can have is access to information. This newsletter is provided as a service to locate and share information that we think will be helpful to you in your work at the state level and to keep you updated on what's happening in public policy.

You'll find information that:

- **Compares your state to other SECA states**—how you're doing, what issues you have in common, what the hot topics are in your states.
- **Brings the national scene to your fingertips** and gives you a perspective on how national events might impact you... You'll also receive information about where to find additional information.

We hope you'll find it helpful. Children need you to be their "voice" in your community and state.

*This monthly newsletter is produced by Glenda Bean, SECA Executive Director.*

*SECA strives to provide non-partisan and non-biased information*

*that is of interest to early childhood educators. Sign up at*

<http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/public-policy/public-policy-notes/>

*to receive notice of its availability each month.*

## State Legislatures in 2017

Legislatures in all SECA states are meeting this year. The schedule follows.

**Alabama:** Feb 7-mid May

**Arkansas:** Jan 9-March 9

**Florida:** March 7-May 5

**Georgia:** Jan 9-late March

**Kentucky:** Jan 3-March 30

**Louisiana:** April 10-June 8

**Mississippi:** January 3-April 2

**N Carolina:** Jan 11-mid-July

**S Carolina:** Jan 10-June 1

**Tennessee:** Jan 10-mid April

**Texas:** Jan 10-May 29

**Virginia:** Jan 11-Feb 25

**West Virginia:** Feb 8-April 8

[Click here](#) for a calendar for all 50 states. Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*, [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)

Note that the adjournment dates can change, depending upon the work flow and ability to conclude business within the legislative body.

Note also that some states have organizational session dates which may pre-date the actual convene date.

**Florida** held an organizational session in November 2016. The convene date is March 7, 2017.

**North Carolina** scheduled their organizational session for the opening date of January 11th.

**Oklahoma** set an organizational session date of January 3rd but will not convene until February 6th.

**West Virginia** scheduled their organ-

izational session date for January 11th but will not convene until February 8th.

For advocates, it's important to learn what business was conducted on those organizational session dates. It may be as simple as committee assignments (which you will need to know) or there may have been some changes to House and Senate rules and protocols.

SECA has provided you with a simple on-line system to find the contact information for your state. [Click here](#) to go to our website page that provides state advocacy contacts. You'll find this page listed on the drop down menu under **Our States**. Remember, SECA & its members are the **Voice for Southern Children**.