

Strong Safeguards Save Lives

Federal rules are critical for protecting kids, preventing disease and saving lives.

Federal agencies implement and enforce the laws passed by Congress to protect the public, using their expertise and the best science.



Federal agencies must be able to propose and finalize rules without unnecessary delay.

- Current law already requires that federal rules go through extensive review, analysis, and public comment before they are finalized. Many lifesaving rules take years to be developed. Delaying safeguards further would put public health at risk.

Federal rules must be based on sound science to protect health.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is required by the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to act on what is “appropriate for the protection of public health” when it oversees the manufacturing, marketing and sales of tobacco products. This requires FDA to act using sound science – taking into account what will prevent youth from beginning to use tobacco and encourage current tobacco users to quit.
- The Environmental Protection Agency bases its air pollution standards on the recommendations of its Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which is designed to be an independent group of experts who evaluate the research to determine how much of a given pollutant is safe to breathe. However, EPA recently put in place rules that skew the panel’s membership toward industry and away from independent experts on air pollution.
- Federal agencies must continue to have access to the best health science when writing rules. They use peer-reviewed studies published in reputable scientific journals.
- During the public comment period, all individuals, organizations and corporations have an opportunity to submit their perspectives and share additional information that supports their points. The agencies are required to address every comment in their response.

Rules that protect public health are smart investments.

- Thanks to rules issued under the Clean Air Act, the nation has cleaned up harmful air pollution while growing the economy. In a [peer-reviewed study](#), EPA found that the benefits of Clean Air Act protections greatly outweigh the costs.

For more information

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