

## Reports the Administration Listed Seven Banned Words to Federal Health Agencies

### OVERVIEW

December 16, 2017 the Washington Post reported that the Trump Administration, specifically a senior leader at the U.S. Center for Disease Control CDC, had given policy analysts a list of seven words banned from budget documents for the agencies. It appears that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was also given the list, which included the following words:

- Vulnerable
- Entitlement
- Diversity
- Transgender
- Fetus
- Evidence-based
- Science-based

Additionally, substitute words were suggested, such as in lieu of “evidence-based” or “science-based,” an analyst might use, “CDC bases its recommendations on science in consideration with community standards and wishes,” the source said.

### WHAT YOUR COMPANY NEEDS TO KNOW

The mere suggestion that the very agencies charged with protecting and advancing Americans’ health and welfare; defending the most vulnerable populations, would be restricted from utilizing words and descriptors that are essential to their work, safety, and scholarly expertise, is nothing short of shameful. This is not good for business and it’s not good sense. The U.S. is looked to by the world as a leader in scientific research and global health. To hamstring that work by restricting the use of language only damages the credibility of these institutions in the international community, and demeans the dedication of federal employees in their workplaces and professional fields of expertise.

## WHAT YOUR COMPANY CAN DO

If you are a company or organization with ties to the CDC, HHS, or greater healthcare industry, such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, insurers, immunology research, cell therapy, or any one of the institutions engaged in the multiple fields contributing to health, welfare, and well-being – register your opinion with the CDC or HHS directly. Make a statement to your U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative. Make it known that you think this is not good for business and not good sense. Furthermore, reaffirm to your science and research teams that science and evidenced-based work is valued in your organization.

## WHO SHOULD ENGAGE AT YOUR COMPANY

- ERG Leaders
- Government Relations
- D&I Officers

Actions like these present opportunities for valuable conversations within your company regarding the importance of visibility and diversity. Robust discussion and dialog are vital parts of the success of organizations and businesses, where censorship is not embraced, and bringing all of your ideas and words are a critical part of bringing your whole self to work.