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NEWS

Obama Signs Executive Order Banning The Pledge Of Allegiance In Schools Nationwide

By Jimmy Rustling, ABC News - December 11, 2016 120955 719

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President Obama, seen here signing an Executive Order today which bans the Pledge of Allegiance in all public schools around the country. (AP Photo / Dennis System)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. **(AP)** — Early this morning, [President Obama](#) made what could very well prove to be the most controversial move of his presidency with the signing of [Executive Order 13738](#), which revokes the federal government's official recognition of [the Pledge of Allegiance](#). Under the new order, it is now illegal for any federally funded agency to display the pledge or for any federal employee to recite, or encourage others to recite, the pledge while on duty. This law also applies to federal contractors and other institutions that receive federal funding such as public schools. Individuals who violate this order can face fines of up to \$10,000 and up to one year in federal prison.

During the press conference, the President explained his decision was based on a personal belief that the language used in the pledge is "divisive" and "contrary to America's deepest held values."

"The pledge excludes so many Americans who are vital to making this country what it is," Obama said. "Asking someone to pledge their allegiance to our country excludes Jehovah's Witnesses, Amish, Muslims,