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AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: Reuters

Trump Administration Plans to Divert \$40 Million in Aid to Venezuela's Opposition

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump plans to transfer more than \$40 million in humanitarian aid for Venezuela's opposition. These funds were originally supposed to be for Central America, specifically for Guatemala and Honduras. However, the money will be redirected to support Venezuela's opposition alongside the United States. The total money was \$41.9 million, which had been intended for Guatemala and Honduras which are two of three Central American countries suffering a migration crisis.

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, the money will instead be used for salaries, travel, communications equipment, technical assistance and training for the management of a government budget and other Venezuelan needs. The funds are necessary because of U.S. interest in the Venezuelan crisis that continues to grow. For a long time, Trump's administration has been backing up Juan Guaidó and hoping to get Nicolás Maduro out of office.

Juan Guaidó, both the head of Venezuela's National Assembly and opposition leader assumed an interim presidency in January, invoking the Venezuelan constitution and arguing in favor of President Nicolás Maduro's illegitimacy. A reason for the diversion of funds was communicated by the State Department. They had previously announced in June that Trump was cutting Central American funds by millions of dollars due to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras failing to decrease migration.

Fuente

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-usa-aid/trump-administration-plans-to-divert-40-million-in-aid-to-venezuelas-opposition-idUSKCN1UB2X0>



Foto: The New York Times

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Who Led Liberal Wing, Dies at 99

John Paul Stevens dedicated his life to the Supreme Court for 35 years. He began as a Republican antitrust lawyer and transformed into the outspoken leader of the liberal wing. He died at age 99 due to complications after he suffered a stroke the day before. He has retired in 2010 at the age of 90, being the second-oldest and third-longest-serving justice to ever sit on court.

Justice Stevens served when societal debates over gay rights, the role of race, private property rights, environmental regulation, and the separation of church and state made way onto the Supreme Court's docket. As a Republican from Chicago, he surprised many when he took the liberal side and became its leader. Justice Stevens was the one who wrote the court's majority opinion in *Rasul versus Bush*, in 2004. He was also the one who wrote the majority opinion in *Hamdan versus Rumsfeld*, in 2006. Moreover, Justice Stevens wrote the opinion in *Atkins versus Virginia* (2002), declaring that the Constitution does not permit the execution of the mentally disabled.

Justice Stevens became the senior associate justice in his 19th year on the court on the retirement of Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1994. The role heightened his visibility and showed the world that he was a strategic thinker who could forge a path that might have appeared blocked by the majority. He believed that both the public and the law were best served when contrasting views were expressed and explained instead of suppressed for the sake of surface collegiality.

Fuente

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/16/us/john-paul-stevens-dead.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

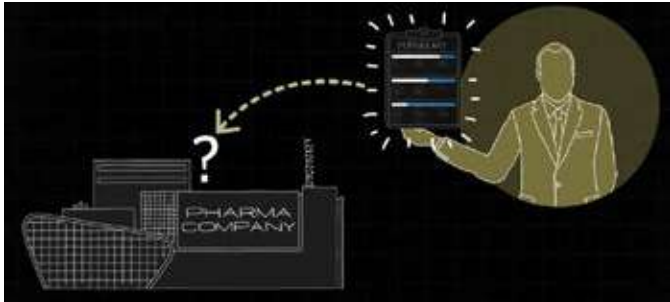


Foto: Wall Street Journal

Trump Administration Moves to Shift Patients' Chronic Illness Costs to Insurers

Due to guidance released on Wednesday by the Trump administration, Americans will have now more accessibility to insulin, inhalers, and other treatments for chronic health problems. As of today, people in plans with pretax health-savings accounts have to pay for their deductible before their insurance covers treatment costs. The change issued by Trump will now allow insurers to provide coverage for treatments (such as blood-pressure monitors) before the deductible is paid. The reason as to why insurers have complied to this change is because if people do not get treatment for their conditions in time, their health will worsen and will therefore require a greater amount of coverage from insurance companies.

The guidance is specific to high-deductible health plans connected to special pretax health savings accounts. It was issued by the Internal Revenue Service and by the Treasury Department. This change has been long asked for and it benefits employers, insurers, and patients. The guidance claims that previous failure to deal with chronic conditions has led to amputation, blindness, strokes, and heart attacks among other consequences. It is vital to avoid these consequences for obvious humanitarian reasons and also because a lot of medical intervention will be avoided.

This change is said to benefit more than 133 million Americans who deal with a medical condition such as diabetes. Also, the guidance means that certain medical treatments for people dealing with chronic illnesses will be considered as preventive. Restrictions to the guidance apply, including the fact that in order to be eligible to receive treatment, one must be facing a strong likelihood of getting worse if they are not treated immediately.

Fuente

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/patients-with-high-deductible-health-plans-to-get-greater-flexibility-11563372139>



Foto: uschamber.com

Why America Needs EXIM Sooner, Not Later

The U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) will be running again due to the Senate confirmation of several board members. However, its charter will blunder at the end of September. The House Financial Services Committee has begun to discuss the reauthorization of EXIM. It is extremely important that legislators work toward this goal in a quick manner, given that EXIM's charter expires on September 30. A reason as to why EXIM should be authorized is because it finances and guarantees for U.S. exports that directly support American jobs without cost to the taxpayer. The last time that EXIM was up for reauthorization was in 2015.

A board quorum was restored for the first time since mid-2015. During this interim, the bank could not extend loans over \$10 million. In contrast to other countries who are aided by export credit agencies, like China, U.S. exporters have been competing at a great disadvantage in key markets. A competitiveness reports shows that China is providing 130 times as much MLT (medium and long-term) export credit support to exporters as EXIM to U.S. exporters.

An area of constant disagreement over the EXIM reauthorization involves a proposal that would limit EXIM support for exports to Chinese state-owned enterprises. EXIM is necessary because it is required to bid on a variety of foreign businesses and opportunities. Moreover, it allows for goods such as aircraft, turbines, and locomotives to be sold without unashamed economic credit agency (ECA) backing. Overall, EXIM allows U.S. companies to turn export opportunities into real sales, further creating jobs as well as contributing to a stronger economy.

Fuente

https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/why-america-needs-exim-sooner-not-later?utm_medium=Email&utm_content=why-america-needs-exim-sooner-not-later&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Market&utm_campaign=All_Tags&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpJbk1UvmpORFJlSTkKailslinQjOUaXC9KSXNZVpIRGxSbXhHb2bnVDMTd5b1MwWitZWlOckpsakSPQ1hES0ltaHBT3hSaENQJnJlUG5hS1lnLXpGVHJZSTU2ZTRVUell6lUyY4M3hEcGloInNEWGIJY2hqM1lablRpeKwREpHWHhwV2NYCHVTC82YjdNekRpeGIVn0%3D



Foto: ABC News - Go.com

El Chapo Sentenced to Life in U.S. Prison

The leader of a Mexican drug cartel, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán Loera, has spent decades running from authorities. Earlier this week, he was sentenced by a federal judge to spend the rest of his life in a U.S. prison. El Chapo will most likely be sent to the federal “Supermax” prison in Florence, Colorado. Even though the facility has not been decided, this assumption has been made because of the prison’s reputation of being home to the country’s most dangerous and high-risk defendants. The Mr. Guzmán was found guilty in February of 10 criminal counts related to his drug empire, one of which carried a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

Mr. Guzmán led the Sinaloa cartel for many years. This cartel was the largest drug-trafficking organization in the world and included the murder of many enemies and bribes to Mexican officials. Mr. Guzmán claims he was “denied a fair

trial” in the United States. His three-month trial became a spectacle, attracting tourists who waited hours for the coveted courtroom seats. Mr. Guzmán smuggled immense quantities of cocaine hidden in cans of jalapeños. He did this for decades between the U.S.-Mexico border.

Since his extradition to the United States in January 2017, Mr. Guzmán has lived in a windowless cell in solitary confinement at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan. He was even banned from having two hours of exercise a day, due to prior attempts to escape from that same facility. Mr. Guzmán was first captured in 1993 and escaped in 2001 inside a laundry cart. Then, he was recaptured in 2014 and escaped less than two years later through a tunnel. Finally, he was captured again in 2016.