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## Trump Overrules Health Officials, Orders Removal of Top Vaccine Regulator

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President Donald Trump has reportedly directed the removal of the United States' top vaccine regulator, overriding Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary. The move, first reported by *Politico* and attributed to four unnamed sources with direct knowledge, marks a significant shake-up in the administration's health leadership.

The decision was made on July 29, 2025, shortly after Trump's return from an overseas trip to Scotland. It underscores a shift in authority within HHS and reinforces Trump's 2024 campaign pledge to give Kennedy broad influence over federal health policy. Kennedy, a long-time vaccine skeptic, has publicly challenged the safety of routine immunizations—a stance widely disputed by the medical community.

Dr. Makary, appointed as FDA Commissioner under Trump's current administration, has previously advocated for evidence-based vaccine oversight. His reported opposition to removing the vaccine regulator was overridden along with Secretary Kennedy's.

The unnamed official targeted for removal has not been publicly identified. The decision has prompted concerns about the politicisation of vaccine policy. However, there is currently no peer-reviewed evidence indicating that the regulator's dismissal was linked to misconduct or failure in public health duties.

The situation has drawn comparisons to Trump's 2020 Operation Warp Speed initiative, which expedited COVID-19 vaccine development. While praised for its rapid rollout, the program also faced scrutiny over issues of global vaccine equity and pressure on regulatory agencies. A 2021 study in *The Lancet* pointed to disparities in vaccine distribution as a result of prioritizing speed over coordination.

Kennedy's growing influence in the administration is consistent with the President's efforts to challenge long-standing health narratives. Notably, Kennedy has asserted a debunked connection between childhood vaccinations and autism, despite a 2014 *Journal of Pediatrics* study finding no such link. His views remain controversial within public health circles.

The FDA and HHS have not released official statements addressing the report, and it remains unclear whether a successor has been appointed. The development highlights the ongoing tension between scientific leadership and political oversight in national health policy. Further updates are expected as the administration outlines its next steps.