

# *Twenty-two U.S. states sue over Trump's birthright citizenship order*

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Washington, January 22 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to overturn birthright citizenship in the U.S. has drawn sharp criticism from American people, states and rights groups.

Twenty-two states and several civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, and immigrant organizations on Tuesday filed a slew of lawsuits to block Trump's bid.

On Monday, Trump ordered U.S. agencies to refuse to recognize the citizenship of children born in the U.S. if neither their mother or father is an American citizen or legal permanent resident.

The lawsuits argue that his executive order violates the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment which guarantees the right to birthright citizenship for anyone born in the country. The lawsuits aim for a central piece of Trump's sweeping immigration crackdown.

The office of Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell said Trump's order would deny more than 150,000 children born annually in the United States the right to citizenship.

"President Trump does not have the authority to take away constitutional rights," she said in a statement.

Several states say without citizenship, those children would be prevented from having access to federal programs like health insurance, and when they become older, from working lawfully or voting.

"Today's immediate lawsuit sends a clear message to the Trump administration that we will stand up for our residents and their basic constitutional rights," New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin said in a statement.

Several other lawsuits challenging aspects of Trump's other early executive actions are pending. The National Treasury Employees Union represents federal government employees in 37 agencies and departments. On Monday night, it filed a lawsuit challenging an order Trump signed that makes it easier to fire thousands of federal agency employees and replace them with political loyalists.

[ SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES ]

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