

## Donald Trump's unconstitutional dreams

In an interview with the news program "Axios on HBO," President Donald Trump announced that he plans to issue an **executive order** ending **birthright** citizenship, the principle that everyone born in the United States, with **a handful of** exceptions, is automatically a citizen of the United States.

executive order 行政令

birthright 与生俱来的权利

a handful of 少量的

"It was always told to me," the president declared, "that you needed a constitutional amendment. Guess what? You don't."

In fact, such an order would undoubtedly be unconstitutional. It would also **violate** a deeply rooted American idea --- that anybody, regardless of race, religion, national origin or the legal status of one's parents, can be a loyal citizen of this country.

violate 违反; 侵犯

Birthright citizenship is established by the Civil Rights Act of 1866, still on the books today, and by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, **ratified** two years later. Adopted as part of the effort to **purge** the United States of the legacy of slavery, the principle of birthright citizenship remains an **eloquent** statement about the nature of American society, a powerful force for assimilation of the children of immigrants and a **repudiation** of our long history of racism.

ratify 批准; 许可

purge 净化; 清洗

eloquent 有说服力的; 雄辩的

repudiation 否认; 拒绝

Trump's **prospective** order would deny citizenship to children born in the United States to noncitizens. It is especially aimed at **undocumented** immigrants who supposedly pour into the

country to have “**anchor** babies” --- one of the president’s numerous **exaggerations** when it comes to the dangers posed by immigration.

prospective 未来的

undocumented 非法的

anchor 锚; 靠山

exaggeration 夸大

Trump’s order, if issued, will not only violate both the Constitution and deeply rooted American ideals, but also set a dangerous **precedent**. If the president can **unilaterally abrogate** a provision of the Constitution by executive order, which one will be next?

precedent 先例

abrogate 废除; 取消

unilaterally 单方面地