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President Joe Biden Grants Full and Unconditional Pardon to Son Hunter Biden

Biden grants a sweeping pardon to his son Hunter Biden, covering offenses from 2014 to 2024, citing selective prosecution and addiction-related struggles; the move overturns earlier public promises and ignites political backlash

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Hunter Biden

Washington, D.C. — In a move that has sparked significant public and political discussion, President Joe Biden announced on Sunday night that he has signed a full and unconditional pardon for his son, Hunter Biden. This pardon covers all offenses against the United States that Hunter Biden has committed or may have committed from January 1, 2014, through December 1, 2024,

effectively stopping any potential legal consequences stemming from recent federal convictions for gun and tax-related charges.

The decision marks a stark reversal from Biden's previous public statements where he pledged not to use the powers of the presidency for personal gain. Earlier this year, Biden had explicitly stated, "I will not pardon him," following Hunter's conviction on federal gun charges. However, in his recent statement, the president expressed a different view, saying, "Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted." He continued, "Without aggravating factors like use in a crime, multiple purchases, or buying a weapon as a straw purchaser, people are almost never brought to trial on felony charges solely for how they filled out a gun form."

Mr. Biden's statement also addressed the tax charges, noting, "Those who were late paying their taxes because of serious addictions, but paid them back subsequently with interest and penalties, are typically given non-criminal resolutions. It is clear that Hunter was treated differently." This executive grant of clemency was issued via a formal document and cannot be rescinded by the incoming President-elect Donald Trump.

Hunter Biden, who has been a focal point of Republican criticism for years, was convicted in June for illegally purchasing a gun while being a drug user and had pleaded guilty to nine tax offenses related to \$1.4 million in unpaid taxes. The pardon comes ahead of scheduled sentencing dates in December and has led to immediate filings by Hunter's legal team to dismiss the charges in both the Delaware gun case and the California tax case.

The White House had previously maintained that no pardon or commutation was under consideration for Hunter, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stating on November 7, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is 'no.'" However, the President's latest action suggests a change of heart, potentially influenced by the political climate and the personal impact on his family.

Critics from the Republican side have been vocal, with President-elect Donald Trump reacting on his social network, saying, "Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!" Representative James Comer, chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, commented, "Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence peddling activities."

Conversely, Hunter Biden has acknowledged the personal and legal challenges he faced, stating, "I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction – mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport."

This pardon, while controversial, places Hunter Biden in a unique position as one of the few individuals to receive such sweeping clemency from a president, drawing comparisons to past presidential pardons like that of Richard Nixon by Gerald Ford. The full implications of this decision on the legal and political landscapes remain to be seen as the Biden administration prepares to transition out of office.