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Commentary: Taking Away Food Assistance Puts the Trump Administration on the Wrong Side of History

If you care about federal food assistance, it's been a head-spinning couple of months.

Earlier this year, the Trump Administration and congressional Republicans enacted the [largest cuts in history](#) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and [canceled the long-standing annual Department of Agriculture survey](#) that would document the cuts' harms. But when the government shutdown began, they started expressing concern about risks to SNAP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

It "[helps no one](#)" to cut SNAP benefits, said House Budget Committee Republicans. No one should "allow impoverished mothers and their babies to go hungry," the White House Press Secretary opined – that is "[so cruel](#)."

But as Maya Angelou said: when people show you who they are, believe them the first time.

And sure enough, as the shutdown went on, it became clear that President Trump was *not* concerned about the millions of people across the U.S. who need SNAP to help cover their grocery bills. They were just pawns in his political battle.

The Trump Administration became so determined to deny people their SNAP benefits that it fought all the way to the Supreme Court, even though the funds were available and it had the [legal authority](#) to use them.

The government has now reopened, and these nutrition programs are thankfully funded until the fall of 2026. The Administration hasn't let up, though. Agriculture Secretary Rollins – after saying the government would be "[failing](#)" people if it didn't provide SNAP benefits – has resumed her attacks on the program, falsely labeling it "[corrupt](#)" and ridden with "[fraud](#)." In reality, SNAP has one of the [most rigorous eligibility determination systems](#) of any federal benefit program and SNAP participants must verify their eligibility regularly to stay connected to the program.

There's a silver lining here: the public is more aware than ever of the value of programs like SNAP. There was a huge outcry and [concern](#) over the Trump Administration's attempts to unlawfully and unnecessarily withhold SNAP benefits. The public won't soon forget that SNAP benefits were suspended, and they

won't like seeing more people lose their benefits permanently as the food assistance cuts in the Republican megabill get implemented.

There is a long, proud tradition of bipartisan support for food assistance programs in the United States, grounded in a shared belief that no one should go hungry in a country with as many resources as ours. People from coast to coast and everywhere in between still deeply believe that cutting food assistance puts the Trump Administration and congressional Republicans at odds with broadly shared American values and on the wrong side of history.