



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
The Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We are deeply concerned to hear that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has terminated the Household Food Security Reports (Reports).¹ **We urge you to reverse that decision, continue to publish the Household Food Security Reports, and immediately reinstate the researchers placed on non-disciplinary administrative leave that worked in USDA's Economic Research Service.**²

For over 30 years, this study has helped states and the federal government determine projected need for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).³ This action undermines the government's ability to capture data on the growing need⁴ for food and nutrition assistance during a time when prices continue to increase. These increases are most acutely felt by working- and middle-class American households. Recent news articles indicate that USDA will release food insecurity data gathered for the 2024 report but will not publish any hunger data during President Trump's second term.⁵

Since the mid-1990s, both Republican and Democratic administrations have supported the release of these Reports, underscoring their value as a trusted resource to be used as the official government source of information on how many Americans do not have enough to eat.⁶ These Reports provide comprehensive data available on the prevalence and severity of food insecurity in every state, allowing policymakers to understand trends and evaluate the effectiveness of federal nutrition programs, and identify communities most in need of public support. These are often households with children and senior citizens.⁷ The decision to cancel publication of the

¹ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/09/20/usda-terminates-redundant-food-insecurity-survey>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/23/politics/usda-hunger-researchers-on-leave>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/09/21/trump-usda-hunger-report-food-insecurity/>

⁴ [USDA | Food Insecurity in the US; 7/2025](#)

⁵ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-agriculture/2025/09/22/usda-ends-food-insecurity-survey-00574583>

⁶ [WSJ | Trump Administration Cancels Annual Hunger Survey - 9/2025](#)

⁷ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics>



Reports comes at a time when more Americans are struggling to feed themselves and their families.

USDA has claimed the agency has “more timely and accurate data sets available”, but has yet to indicate what those sources are or where the data comes from.⁸ At a time when 18 million households have food insecurity⁹, and with Republican cuts to SNAP in the reconciliation bill set to go into effect, USDA must continue to provide reliable data on food insecurity.

Therefore, we write in strong support for continuing the Household Food Security Reports and the immediate reinstatement of the USDA researchers who have been placed on non-disciplinary administrative leave.

We ask that you provide a written response to the concerns raised in this letter by October 23, 2025.

- 1) We ask that you provide all formal or informal policies, directives, memoranda, guidance, procedures, or communications prepared, modified, issued, or reissued by USDA, or the White House to USDA, on or before September 20, 2025, reflecting the Department’s policy or practice with respect to the cancellation of the Household Food Security Reports.
- 2) What input, if any, was sought from outside experts, advocacy organizations, academic institutions, or other federal agencies before reaching the decision to cancel the Reports?
- 3) Has USDA conducted any internal analysis or stakeholder consultation regarding the potential impacts of canceling the Household Food Security Reports on federal, state, and local programs? If so, please provide those findings.
- 4) USDA has claimed that the survey is costly to administer, even though survey and hunger questions are simply included in yearly census data collection¹⁰. Has USDA assessed the budgetary costs or savings associated with continuing versus canceling the Household Food Security Reports? If so, please provide this cost analysis.
- 5) What other metrics or data sources, if any, will be used for the remainder of this Administration to collect comprehensive data on food insecurity and access within the United States?

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, urge you to reconsider the decision to cancel the Reports and ensure that USDA retains the staff needed to continue providing the reliable data that communities, policymakers, and households depend upon to address hunger and food insecurity in the United States of America.

⁸ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-agriculture/2025/09/22/usda-ends-food-insecurity-survey-00574583>

⁹ [USDA | Food Insecurity in the US, 7/2025](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-agriculture/2025/09/22/usda-ends-food-insecurity-survey-00574583>



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Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Adam Smith

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib

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Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson

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Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Ranking Member, House
Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related
Agencies



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A black ink signature of Dan Goldman, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a series of connected loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Lateefah Simon, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'L' and 'S'.

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Glenn Ivey, written in a cursive style with a large 'G' and 'I'.

Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Donald S. Beyer Jr., written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'B'.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress