

October 23, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

As social science, public health and medical researchers, we wish to formally express our concern regarding the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) September 20<sup>th</sup> [announcement](#) to terminate data collection and release of future Household Food Security Reports. **We respectfully request that Congress reject this decision and provide the \$1.1 million necessary to support data collection of the Food Security Supplement (FSS) in the Current Population Survey (CPS) by the U.S. Census Bureau and the public release of the annual report and data.**

For over two decades, the CPS FSS has served as a critical measure of economic well-being, an indicator of the effectiveness of USDA food and nutrition programs, and directed relief efforts to demographic and geographic communities in highest need. As you may know, the CPS FSS is the largest source of nationally representative data, measuring the nation's food insecurity. Without collection of this validated and highly respected data, this decision by the USDA will significantly reduce the nation's ability to monitor the extent to which food insecurity increases in response to changing economic and policy conditions. Given the strong and growing body of research documenting the connection between food insecurity and negative health outcomes, increases in health care utilization, and healthcare costs, the food security measure provides vital scientific information about the geographic and demographic risk factors for food insecurity that our country needs to remain healthy. In addition, researchers such as [Bartfeld and Dunifon \(2006\)](#) use the food security data to document specific state characteristics linked to household food insecurity. Organizations such as Feeding America use the food security data to produce its annual [Map the Meal Gap](#) that highlights, among other things, counties and congressional districts with elevated child food insecurity, while [Meals On Wheels Association of America](#) uses the USDA-produced information to better assist seniors in need.

In its announcement, USDA rationalizes its decision to terminate future Household Food Security reports calling them "redundant, costly, politicized, and extraneous studies..." However,

the annual cost to USDA of the CPS FSS data collection is only \$1.1 million. The nationally representative sample uniquely provides the gold standard measure of food security and the longest time trend available. Also, the annual Household Food Security report is not a political document, but rather a clear and objective report on the state of food security in the country. The report is written by career federal officials who follow the same report structure regardless of which political party controls the Administration. Further, the report is peer reviewed by scientists for bias and accuracy before release each year.

The USDA statement also unfairly criticizes the report for justifying increased SNAP eligibility and benefit allotments. The idea for measuring food insecurity has nonpartisan origins and has been historically supported by both Republican and Democratic Administrations. The idea of creating a food security measure originated in the Reagan Administration and took shape during the George H.W Bush Administration as a result of unanimous votes in the House and Senate to pass the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990. Since then, the report has been released annually without controversy and widely used to not only inform research, but also service delivery by public, non-profit, and charitable organizations throughout the country.

Thank you for considering our views and for your attention to this important matter. Restoring the data collection of the CPS FSS and release of the annual Household Food Security Reports will enable our nation's ability to fully understand the causes and consequences of food insecurity.

Sincerely,

cc

The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable John Hoeven  
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen

The Honorable Andy Harris  
The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
The Honorable John Boozman  
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
The Honorable G.T. Thompson  
The Honorable Angie Craig

## **Organizations**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Statistical Association  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public Data Users  
Boulder County Public Health  
British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)  
Brown University Population Studies and Training Center  
California - U.S. Census Bureau Federal-State Co-operative for Population Estimates and for Population Projections  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
CT Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Danbury Farmers Market Community Collaborative  
Decision Demographics, LLC  
Defend Public Health  
Hawai'i Data Collaborative  
ICPSR, University of Michigan  
Institute of Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
IPUMS Center for Data Integration  
Kinder Institute for Urban Research  
Los Angeles Food Policy Council  
Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health  
National Council on Measurement in Education  
New Jersey Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics  
Oregon Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Population Association of America  
Population Reference Bureau  
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)  
UC Berkeley Social Sciences Data Lab (D-Lab) and Federal Statistical Research Data Center  
Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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