

EW RISINGER

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Week 27

American Food Security

"No American goes hungry while the government argues about it."

1. The Problem

47.9 million Americans are food insecure — 1 in 7 households — in the wealthiest country in the history of the world. The United States wastes 60 million tons of food per year while millions of children go hungry. This is not a production problem. It is a distribution, access, and policy problem. The number has remained elevated for three consecutive years, reversing a decade of progress.

2. The Governing Principle

A country that subsidizes corporate farms while children go hungry is not producing a measurable return for the American people. Week 27 measures success by one number: the percentage of Americans who are food insecure. That number goes down every year or the program is restructured until it does. Hunger is not a political issue. It is a failure of governance. The federal government has the authority, the infrastructure, and the obligation to end it.

3. The Specific Policy

Day 1 Executive Orders

- **Restore the USDA Household Food Security Survey:** the Trump administration discontinued the annual USDA Economic Research Service Household Food Security Survey — the primary federal data source on American hunger — after December 2025. Without this survey the federal government is flying blind on a crisis affecting 47.9 million Americans. Day 1 executive order restores the annual survey immediately. The governing standard requires measurement. Discontinuing the measurement is an admission that the government does not want to know the answer.

- **SNAP purchase restrictions — sugary beverages and candy excluded:** the USDA Secretary has existing regulatory authority under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to define eligible SNAP food items. This authority has been used to prohibit alcohol and tobacco. Day 1 executive order

directs the USDA Secretary to exclude from SNAP eligibility: (1) sugary beverages above a defined sugar threshold per ounce — soda, energy drinks, sweetened juices; (2) candy and confectionery.

The governing standard:

taxpayer-funded

assistance

funds nutrition. The same government

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that funds Medicaid to treat diabetes-related complications also currently funds SNAP purchases of the sugary drinks thatPhone:

contribute

to diabetes.| Congressional

legislation codifying the restriction

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follows to make it permanent and legally unassailable.

SNAP Reform — Strengthen the Program, Reduce the Barriers

- **Index SNAP benefits to the USDA Thrifty Food Plan in real time:** benefits adjust automatically when food prices rise rather than requiring congressional action. The average SNAP benefit is roughly \$6 per person per day — not enough to buy a nutritious diet in most American markets.

Automatic indexing ends the gap between benefit levels and actual food costs.

- **Simplify enrollment:** SNAP has one of the lowest participation rates among eligible households of any federal benefit program because the application process is complex and stigmatizing.

Streamline online enrollment, reduce documentation requirements, and make recertification

automatic for households with stable circumstances. Eligible Americans who need food assistance receive it without a bureaucratic obstacle course.

- **Fix the benefits cliff coordinate with Week 19:** SNAP should complement work, not compete with it. The Week 19 unified sliding scale ensures that earning more never costs more in lost SNAP benefits than it generates in income. Working always produces a net positive outcome. No exception.

Universal School Meals — End Childhood Hunger at School

- **Free breakfast and lunch for every American child regardless of household income:** 30 million children currently receive free or reduced-price school lunch. An estimated 22 million more are either ineligible under income thresholds or do not access the benefit due to stigma, paperwork, or administrative barriers. Universal free school breakfast and lunch eliminates childhood hunger at school entirely — no means testing, no stigma, no bureaucratic barriers, no child going without because their parents missed a form deadline.

- **Cost and return:** approximately \$18-20 billion per year above current program spending, offset by administrative savings from eliminating means-testing overhead and reduced long-term healthcare costs from improved childhood nutrition. The Heckman equation: every dollar invested in childhood nutrition returns \$7-13 in reduced crime, better health outcomes, and higher lifetime earnings. This is the highest-return investment in human capital the federal government can make.

Food Waste to Food Access — Connect the Recoverable Surplus to the Shortage

- **Three recoverable categories from the 60 million tons wasted annually:** (1) Farm-stage cosmetically rejected produce — food that is perfectly safe but rejected for shape, size, or minor blemish. More than half of all fruits and vegetables grown in the country are wasted, much at the farm level. This is the largest recoverable category. (2) Retail unsold food — grocery stores reported \$26.9 billion in unsold food in 2024 alone, pulled before actual safety dates due to cosmetic decline, overstock, or display policies. (3) Food service overproduction — food prepared but never served. Total realistic recoverable food waste across these three categories: approximately 20-30 million tons per year.

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- **Federal food waste redistribution framework:** strengthen and expand the Good Samaritan Food 816-674-1686

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Donation Act to makePhone:

donation

the economically

rational

default over disposal; establish a federal

food recovery logistics platform matching surplus supply with demand in real time; mandate

standardized date labels that clearly distinguish safety dates from quality dates — the single biggest fixable cause of unnecessary food disposal at the retail and consumer level.

Mobile Kitchen Trailer Fleet — Hot Meals for Communities with Nothing

- 53-foot semi-trailer converted into a fully equipped commercial kitchen — 500-2,000 hot meals per day, deployable to any community: Lee County, Arkansas. Bolivar County, Mississippi. Perry

County, Alabama. Rural communities with 3,000 people spread over 400 square miles where

permanent food infrastructure has never existed and may never exist economically. Mobile kitchen trailers go there.

- **Fleet economics:** 100 trailers at \$150,000-300,000 each fully outfitted = \$15-30 million total fleet cost. Federal government owns the trailers. Operated by contracted food service professionals or community organizations. Routes planned by USDA food insecurity data — the restored annual survey tells exactly where to go. Scheduled stops published in advance. Food sourcing: USDA commodity foods; local farm surplus from the food waste redistribution network; coordination with Week 20 Federal Office for Beef Industry Security — domestically produced American beef feeding food-insecure Americans in rural communities.

- **Disaster response capacity:** mobile kitchen trailers double as emergency feeding infrastructure for hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes — pre-positioned in the South where both hunger and disaster risk are highest. \$15-30 million buys a fleet that feeds thousands per day in communities that currently have nothing. That is a return.

Federal Urban Food Distribution Hubs — Level the Playing Field for Local Grocers

- Government-owned wholesale distribution warehouses in major urban centers that purchase food at federal buying scale: the same negotiating power that drives Week 3 drug price negotiation applied to food. Distribute to local grocers at cost plus a small administration fee. Local grocers buy from the hub at prices competitive with what Walmart pays through its massive supply

chain. The grocer stays independent — sets its own prices, serves its own community, keeps profits circulating locally. No mandate — local grocers opt in voluntarily.

- **Local farmers sell directly to the federal hub:** no grain elevator discount, no commodity traders capturing the margin, no retailer squeezing produce prices below the cost of production. The farmer gets a fair price. The hub gets fresh local supply. The local grocer gets competitive prices. The community gets food grown nearby. Cosmetically rejected produce that cannot go to retail flows from the hub directly to the mobile kitchen trailer fleet.

- **The integrated logistics loop — the Peterbilt 579 runs full both ways:** a federal carrier (Week 17) delivers hub wholesale orders to each mobile kitchen trailer stop on a scheduled route. Local grocers, small restaurants, church food pantries, and school cafeterias submit orders through a digital portal tied to their

trailer

stop. The semi

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with hub orders, drops them, picks up local

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farm surplus — cosmetically rejected produce, end-of-season excess — and returns it to the hub.

One scheduled stop. Phone:

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functions: hot meals

served;

hub orders dropped for local businesses;

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local farm surplus loaded for return.

Food Desert Infrastructure

- **Approximately 19 million Americans live in food deserts:** (1) Community grocery cooperative

development grants — federal seed funding for community-owned cooperatives in food desert areas. (2) Mobile market expansion — federally funded mobile fresh food markets on regular schedules, modeled on programs already operating in Philadelphia, Boston, and other cities. (3)

SNAP acceptance at all federally supported farmers markets — mandate and fund EBT infrastructure so SNAP benefits are usable where fresh food is sold directly.

• **Geographic targeting — the rural South is ground zero:** more than 8 out of 10 counties with the highest food insecurity are rural. More than 8 out of 10 are located in the South. Child food insecurity reaches 45% in Lee County, Arkansas and 43% in the Bronx. Black households face food insecurity at 24.4%, Hispanic households at 20.2% — more than double the rate for white non-Hispanic households. Single mothers face a rate of 36.8%. More than 12 million seniors are food insecure. Week 27 investment prioritizes Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Kentucky — where hunger rates are highest and food access infrastructure is most absent.

4. Estimated Cost

Universal school meals: approximately \$18-20 billion per year above current spending. Mobile kitchen trailer fleet: \$15-30 million one-time capital, \$50-100 million per year operating. Federal food distribution hubs: \$500 million per year operating in Year 1, scaling to \$2-3 billion per year at full national deployment. SNAP benefit indexing: approximately \$5-8 billion per year in additional benefit cost. Total Year 1: approximately \$25-30 billion. Offset by reduced long-term healthcare costs, administrative savings from means-testing elimination, and reduced emergency room visits from nutrition improvement.

5. Year 1 Implementation and Measurable Result

Year 1 measurable result: USDA Household Food Security Survey restored by executive order on Day 1; SNAP purchase restriction emergency rule published within 30 days; universal school meal legislation introduced within 30 days; first 10 mobile kitchen trailers deployed to the 10 highest food-insecurity counties within 180 days; first federal food distribution hub operational in a major urban center within 180 days.

Supplement A — Executive Authority Analysis

Which weeks can be implemented by executive order — and which require Congress. A president facing a divided Congress can still deliver meaningful

results

through executive action on Day 1. This

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analysis is honest about what requires legislation and what does not.

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Category

Weeks

Notes

Full executive authority

7 weeks

Implementable Day 1 or near-term

Partial executive authority

5 weeks

Significant action possible; full

implementation requires legislation

Requires Congress

15 weeks

Cannot be implemented by executive

order

Full Executive Authority — 7 Weeks

- Week 6 Farmer Support Plan: COOL restoration via USDA rulemaking; foreign adversary farmland ban via IEEPA executive order; agricultural subsidy reform via USDA executive directive.

- Week 7 WTO Withdrawal and Buy American: WTO withdrawal is executive action under Article

II treaty power — six months notice, no Congressional approval needed. Buy American reform via

executive order on federal procurement.

- Week 8 Defense Production Act and Domestic Computing: DPA invocations are purely executive. Federal data center procurement policy via executive order. Supply chain audit via executive directive.

- Week 13 Military Redeployment: military redeployments are the exclusive authority of the commander-in-chief. Base drawdown requires Congressional notification, not approval. Guantanamo detainee transfer to federal court is executive action.

- Week 20 Federal Office for Beef Industry Security: IEEPA authority for beef security emergency designation; foreign ownership ban via executive order; COOL restoration via USDA rulemaking; USDA food security survey restoration via executive directive.

- Week 23 Federal Land Sovereignty: federal land management policy is within executive authority through Interior and Forest Service. NGO permit reform via rulemaking. Litigation bond requirement requires legislation.

- Week 27 American Food Security: USDA SNAP policy via rulemaking; Day 1 food security executive orders; mobile kitchen trailer deployment via FEMA and USDA emergency authority.

Partial Executive Authority — 5 Weeks

- Week 3 Drug Cost Reform: executive order directing Medicare to negotiate drug prices directly is possible under existing authority. Full pharmaceutical pricing reform requires legislation.

- Week 4 Budget Accountability: presidential travel restrictions and audit commission via executive order. Full ZBB budget reform requires legislation.

- Week 5 Opioid Crisis: DEA prescribing guidance reform via HHS and DEA rulemaking; MAT barrier removal via HHS rulemaking. Full treatment funding expansion requires Congressional appropriation.

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- Week 14 Medicare Phone: and Medicaid Fraud: CMS fraud

enforcement priority directive is executive; provider screening via CMS rulemaking. Full program restructuring requires legislation. Phone: 816-674-1686 | Email: ernie@ewrisinger.com

- Week 18 Lobbying Reform: revolving door restriction via executive order for federal employees

and contractors. Statutory lobbying registration reform requires legislation.

Requires an Act of Congress — 15 Weeks

Weeks 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 26 require Congressional authorization and appropriation for full implementation. A president proposes, campaigns on, and uses political

capital to pass these — but without Congressional majorities they remain proposals. The platform is

honest about this distinction. Executive authority is used to its fullest extent on Day 1. Congressional

authority is pursued through the legislative process with full public accountability for every member who

votes against it.

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