



The Price of Hunger in the United States

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"There is no question or doubt that nobody will starve or go hungry in the United States." Herbert Hoover spoke those words in 1931, days after thousands of poor Americans converged for a Hunger March on Washington DC, demanding government aid. The Great Depression had thrown millions out of work and into poverty, but President Hoover refused to consider how he and Congress could help them. He opposed any form of welfare or "government dole." Media reports of hunger and destitution were "over-exaggerated," he said.

Almost a hundred years later, the Trump administration is repeating that same playbook. Researchers in *The Lancet* wrote that Congress's proposed cuts to Medicaid could cause 14,660 American deaths each year, which otherwise would not have happened. Unprecedented cuts to food benefits (SNAP) will **make millions of people hungry** and malnourished, increasing the risk of suffering and premature death. Russell Vought, Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget, **went on CNN** and called these reports "totally ridiculous" and "astroturf."