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Republican Senators are blocking funding for school lunch programs because the USDA won't let schools refuse lunch money to transgender students



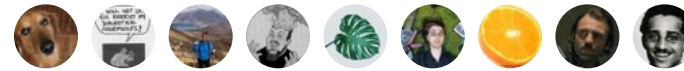
**GOP senator considering blocking school meal funding deal over tra...**

The Senate is attempting to expedite a vote on the school meals funding extension, but several Republicans are threatening to block it before the June 30 expiration.

[politico.com](#)

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Right-wing media has lied about the USDA guidance, suggesting USDA funding would be withheld from schools who don't let trans girls play girls sports. BUT the guidance only applies to programs funded by USDA.

The USDA guidance, however, is only aimed at programs that receive federal nutrition money, not other aspects of school policy that may affect LGBTQ students. A USDA official emphasized that the administration wouldn't pull funding from a school lunch program just because the state has restrictive laws around sports or bathroom access for transgender kids, nor because a school lacks an LGBTQ policy. Rather, individuals could only file complaints if they've been discriminated against by the specific school lunch program based on gender identity — for example, if they were denied food because they were transgender.

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Transgender people are three times as likely to go hungry as their cisgender peers. Transgender kids specifically face higher rates of poverty, homelessness, juvenile detention, and family rejection.

