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## DONALD TRUMP'S POLITICS of PAIN

### How Power Becomes a Weapon to Starve Children

By Love

November 4, 2025 – Donald Trump Use Pain as Leverage

#### **The Performance of Care**

On October 31, Donald Trump posted on social media that he would be “honored” to fund SNAP benefits and that he “doesn’t want Americans to go hungry.” It was a statement designed to sound compassionate, presidential, and morally grounded. But it was also a lie. Because when Trump wants something—whether it is attacking drug dealers, redirecting Pentagon funds for a border wall, or bypassing Congress—he does not wait for permission. He

does not cite legal ambiguity. He acts. He orders. He bulldozes through barriers. But when it comes to feeding millions of Americans during a government shutdown, suddenly the process becomes a problem. Suddenly, he needs “legal clarity.” Suddenly, he is powerless. This is not indecision. It is strategy. Donald Trump is using pain as leverage.

#### **Selective Power, Manufactured Delay**

Let’s be clear: Trump’s administration has the legal

tools to fund SNAP. A federal judge ordered the USDA to release contingency funds immediately. Yet the administration delayed, citing “conflicting legal opinions” and “insufficient authority.” They released only partial payments—cutting benefits by 50%—while requesting further clarification. This is not how Trump behaves when he is committed. When he declared war on drug dealers, he said, “No one can stop me. This is not war.” He did not wait for Congress. He did not ask for permission. He acted. But when it comes to feeding children, he stalls. He blames the courts. He performs concern while inflicting harm.

This is the choreography of power: when Trump wants something, nothing stops him. When he does not, everything becomes an excuse.

Consequently, if the President

truly felt it was an “honor” to feed people, he would have directed his administration to find the remaining four billion dollars that is needed through additional, legal funding streams (such as 23 billion dollars customs fund mentioned by one judge). Instead, the administration claimed procedural difficulty, choosing to maintain the highest possible level of pain to force the Democrats to concede on the political negotiation.

### **The Father That Does not Feed**

The word “Congress” derives from the Greek root kongros, which mean “father.” A father provides. A father protects. A father makes sure that his children eat before he does. But in this shutdown, Congress has failed that role. The president has failed that role. In other words, The U.S.

government is supposed to represent the people, and yet its actions defy the most fundamental instinct of leadership, because all they do is talk, posture, and delay. Meanwhile, children go hungry, families lose benefits, and the poor are left to suffer. The rich and powerful continue their lives uninterrupted. No protests. No urgency. No sacrifice. Just silence. Since a government is considered a parent to its nation, America's government would be guilty of neglect.

### **The Truth Behind the Post**

Trump's social media post was not a promise; it was a performance. It was designed to shift blame, to appear compassionate, and to maintain pressure on Congress while avoiding responsibility. But the truth is simple: if Trump truly wanted to fund SNAP, he would have found a

way. Therefore, this is the ultimate evidence that Donald Trump is on the run. He is not running from a problem that he cannot solve; he is running from the responsibility of governing with compassion.

**He always does, when it serves him.**

This shutdown is not just a failure of policy. It is a deliberate strategy of pain. It is a weaponization of suffering. And Trump's refusal to act, despite his power to do so, reveals the motive behind the delay.

### **A Final Reflection**

This is not about partisanship. It is about priorities. It is about leadership. It is about the difference between saying "I care" and proving it. Trump's history shows to us that when he wants something, he makes it happen. When he does not, he

makes excuses. Donald Trump's politics of pain are not accidental. They are intentional. They are strategic. And they are cruel.