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THE OKLAHOMAN

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Robyn Bergman holds her daughter, Peyton, outside an Oklahoma Human Services office in east Oklahoma City. PHOTOS BY DOUG HOKE/THE OKLAHOMAN

SNAP CHANGES ARE ADDING TO STRUGGLES

Food insecure Oklahomans navigate upheaval, backlogs of program’s new rules

Ben Felder
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Robyn Bergman was determined to be first in line at the Oklahoma Human Services office.

The Edmond mother of four had spent the past five weeks trying to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the federal program known as SNAP that helps food-insecure Americans buy groceries. She had once spent five hours on hold trying to talk to someone with the state.

On July 31, she received a letter in her afternoon mail from Oklahoma Human Services, the agency that manages SNAP, saying she had until the end of the day to come in for her required interview.

By the time she arrived 30 minutes later, she was told no more people would be seen.

“To stay on hold for more than three hours, my gosh, you can see why people throw in the towel and give up.”

Tom Knudsen
Director of housing navigation at City Care

“We are living paycheck to paycheck, and it’s the hardest thing ever,” said Bergman, a stay-at-home mother whose husband works for the U.S. Postal Service.

Thousands of food-insecure Oklahomans have felt Bergman’s struggles.

Average wait times on the phone with Oklahoma Human Services hit three hours

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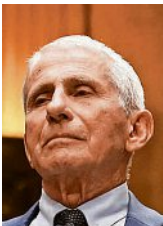


People wait in line outside the Oklahoma Human Services office in east Oklahoma City on Thursday, Aug. 6, to discuss food assistance. Some faces have been blurred to protect identities.

Senate panel votes 8-5 to hold Fauci in contempt

Rand Paul argues earlier pardon nullifies Fifth Amendment claim

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY



Fauci

WASHINGTON – A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and personally sensitive issues, ranging from his actions as the country’s top pandemic expert to his revealing diary entries.

Fauci’s stonewalling, pleading the Fifth more than 100 times, enraged Republicans, most notably committee chair Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, who accused him of defying Congress.

“The sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, quote, ‘behind bars,’ ” Fauci told lawmakers. “Any reasonable person who has followed his unhinged obsession with me would readily come to the same conclusion.”

Paul has repeatedly advocated for the imprisonment of Fauci, a longtime political foe. Fauci stressed

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Why Thunder should retire Dort’s jersey



Jenni Carlson
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Clad in a blue warmup with THUNDER across his back, Lu Dort walked off the court and into a tunnel as the final guitar strains of “Oklahoma Sky” played.

The farther he walked, the darker it got until he was no more.

Then on the screen: THANK YOU, OKC.

Thus ended a four-minute video recently released by the Thunder defensive dynamo who was traded this offseason from Oklahoma City to Atlanta. For a guy not exactly known for public displays of emotion, much less affection, the tribute spoke volumes.

Lu hearts OKC.

And frankly, the feeling is mutual.

All of which begs an intriguing question: Should the Thunder retire Dort’s jersey?

If you look only at his stats, the answer would be

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