

NBC's *Today*

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7:00:07 a.m. [TEASE]

39 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: A tough day ahead at airports coast to coast.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Travel Flightmare]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Major flight cuts now in effect. It's November 7. This is *Today*. Travel flight-mare. Airlines forced to cancel hundreds of trips this morning and more to come as the FAA's air traffic reduction takes hold and the government shutdown hits home hard.

AIRLINE TRAVELER [at Reagan National Airport]: I think the government's playing with people's lives.

GUTHRIE: Airlines and passengers left holding the bag. The mess mounting every passing day without a deal to end the shutdown. What you need to know about refunds and rebookings if you're getting ready to travel.

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7:06:43 a.m.

2 minutes and 44 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Growing Fight Over SNAP Benefits]

MELVIN: So, relief from another impact of the government shutdown could be on the way. A federal judge now ordering the Trump administration to fully fund the SNAP program, food assistance payments used by tens of millions of Americans. NBC's Ryan Nobles picks up that part of the story. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Craig, good morning. Nearly 42 million Americans rely on food assistance, and the federal judge in this case blasting the administration for delaying those benefits, partly for what he called political purposes, adding, not making payments for even another day is simply unacceptable. The White House, though, already pushing back. As the longest government shutdown in history drags on, food benefits for roughly 42 million Americans remain in limbo. Now, a federal judge in Rhode Island ordering the Trump administration to fully fund the food assistance program, known as SNAP, by today. The judge saying it's not enough to partially fund the program. The White House appealing the ruling. Vice President JD Vance blasting it overnight.

VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE: It's an absurd ruling because you have a federal judge effectively telling us what we have to do in the midst of a Democrat government shutdown.

NOBLES: The order follows weeks of chaos and confusion leaving families wondering how they'll pay for their next meal and long lines at food banks across the country. At this cafe in New York City, Diana Minala [sp?] is preparing meals for anyone facing a shortfall in food benefits, dropping off soup to veterans in need.

NEW YORK CITY SOUP KITCHEN PATRON: It's a lot of anxiety, uncertainty, hunger. On the flip side, it's a lot of unity and bannin' together.

NOBLES: Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, some faint signs of progress to end the shutdown. The Senate's preparing to take a procedural step today toward creating a package that could lead to the reopening of the government. But Democrats insist Republicans must negotiate reforms to health care, including an extension of the tax credits for the Affordable Care Act.

SENATOR CHRIS MURPHY (D-CT): We're here begging for negotiation, and our Republican partners are refusing to talk to us.

NOBLES: Republicans maintain they're willing to negotiate on health care, but say there needs to be a vote to reopen the government first.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER JOHN THUNE (R-SD): How much more do Americans have to endure before Democrats are satisfied?

NOBLES: Now most Democrats are insistent that Republicans need to bring more to the table in order for the shutdown to end, but what Republicans are still counting on is just five more moderate Democrats to break ranks. The Senate may work through the weekend in an effort to bring the shutdown to an end, something they have yet to do since this all began 38 days ago. Craig?

MELVIN: Ryan Nobles for us there in Washington.