



Hi folks,

April was a whirlwind in Washington. Trump imposed tariffs which tanked the stock market, then changed his mind, then changed his mind again, and now we're in a pause - sort of. Republicans jammed through their disastrous budget proposal, which would cut public services to pay for rich people's tax cuts. Hundreds of thousands of outraged Americans took to the streets to protest at Hands Off rallies across the country. And I had two weeks back in New Jersey to hold town halls, hear from you all, and attend many other local events. I'm gearing up for the fights ahead, and remain eternally grateful for the faith you all have placed in me to be your Representative. Here's a recap of the past month.

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Republican Budget Rip Off

After one failed attempt, the House Republicans managed to drag their incredibly unpopular, woefully inadequate, and financially ruinous budget proposal [across the finish line](#). This time it was the Senate's version of the bill, which now has to be "reconciled" with the House version.

I won't bore you with the details of the Budget Act of 1974 and the [reconciliation process](#) it lays out, but the bottom line is Republicans took one step closer to slashing funding for crucial programs that millions of Americans rely on — programs like Medicare and Medicaid — all for the sake of cutting taxes for the very rich and big corporations.

It's a shakedown of working families on behalf of billionaire donors. No matter the spin the GOP put

Serving the people of New Jersey's 12th District

I am proud to share that year-to-date, the casework team at my district office has saved constituents **\$1,754,658.33!**

If you have questions about your federal benefits, or need assistance with any federal agency or program, my district office staff is ready to help. Stop by my Ewing office at 850 Bear Tavern Road, or call us: 609-883-0026

"I truly appreciate the warm, considerate, and thorough support provided by your office. Your excellent follow-up and dedication have made this process much smoother for me"

- Zhongnan, Princeton Junction

on it in their desperate bids for reelection, this is a bad budget that hurts millions of Americans.

Town Halls



Cranbury

Earlier this month, I attended a [town hall meeting at the Cranbury Public Library](#). I spoke with community members who expressed their concerns about tariffs, the potential impacts of Congressional Republican cuts to Medicaid, and the President's refusal to abide by court rulings.



North Plainfield

On April 26th I held a Town Hall in North Plainfield where I heard from many of you about your concerns over the spread of misinformation, attacks against unions, funding for education, assaults on the federal workforce, and cuts to Medicaid and public services that communities rely on.

I heard from a 38-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service, concerned that the long-independent agency would be subsumed by the Commerce Department; a schoolteacher anxious over funding for public education; a local library director who wants to see bipartisan support for libraries because, “libraries are for everyone;” a 30-year veteran of the IRS and union member angry at the disrespect and disregard for federal employees shown by the administration and their attacks on public sector unions; and a 6th grader who wanted to know what motivates me to fight for my constituents (he does).

Hands-Off Rallies



This month I attended “Hands Off!” rallies throughout the 12th District. I stopped and spoke at events in Princeton, Franklin Township, and Trenton.

Although these are scary and stressful times, it’s always rejuvenating and energizing to be with you all. I’m so inspired by how many people showed up and turned out to make their voices heard.

No matter how bleak things may seem in the news or on social media, there is one thing you must never forget: the power of the people is greater than the people in power.

Trump Tariff Chaos

If you’re not sure which tariffs are on and which are off, which goods will be taxed and which are exempt, which companies will go under and which will stay afloat, you’re not alone.

The only throughline of Trump’s tariff strategy is that there is no strategy. There’s no rhyme or reason. No predictability. No goal or stated aim. It is chaos, plain and simple. And we are all going to pay for it - [literally](#).

Trump’s tariffs could raise prices on everything from groceries to cell phones to automobiles and more. And beyond costing everyone money, they’re an incredible tool for [corruption](#).

By creating so much uncertainty around the tariffs, Trump has made access to him, personally, a valuable commodity. One which he’s more than happy to sell. Companies that are subject to Trump’s tariffs can be granted exemptions through waivers that the White House issues on a company by company basis. Who gets those waivers? That depends on who gets to talk to Trump.

The chaos around the tariffs is a huge economic loss for the country, but it's a massive financial gain for Trump. He is, once again, using his public office for personal enrichment in broad daylight. It's shameful.

Mass Layoffs at Department of Health and Human Services



At the beginning of this month, the Trump administration announced they were laying off [thousands](#) of workers across the Department of Health and Human Services. Firing these workers makes us less safe. It will make us sicker. It will make us less competitive in the medical research field. It will make America a worse place to live.

Earlier this week, my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee and I convened a hearing with several public health experts to discuss the impacts these layoffs and funding cuts will have on our communities. You can watch the full hearing [here](#).

The decision to target minority health research [specifically](#) shows the Trump Administration's hatred for anyone who is not white. We know, objectively, empirically, through established research, that Black and Brown Americans are more likely to get sick and less likely to recover. This is a choice to stop the work of preventing the senseless deaths of millions of Americans. Just as this administration sought to cut off lifesaving aid to children in countries with large nonwhite populations around the world, now they are cutting off medical support for Black and Brown people at home.

These cuts are utterly shameful and incredibly harmful. They will do nothing but cause more suffering. I cannot condemn these actions in strong enough terms. They are despicable.

Letters to the Administration

Letter to Secretary Kennedy

On April 10, I led 45 of my colleagues, along with Representative Judy Chu (CA-28) in sending a [letter](#) to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to condemn the Trump Administration's decision to eliminate the Office of Minority Health and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These cuts put the health of millions of Americans in danger, including the nation's most vulnerable populations. This move and other cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programs showcase the Administration's clear disregard for the health and safety of vulnerable Americans. We urged Secretary Kennedy to reverse this disheartening decision.

Democratic Women Respond to Trump's attempt to "get women to have more babies"

This month I and nearly 40 of my Democratic women colleagues sent a [letter](#) to Trump responding to his disgusting proposals on how to "get women to have more babies."

As we lay out in the letter, the Trump administration is currently dismantling programs that support women and our families. Meanwhile, they're resisting any efforts to create programs that actually help women. Things like paid family leave, affordable childcare, maternal healthcare, workplace protections for people growing their families, tax policy that eases the burden on families, and many other proposals we have been advocating for for years.

It's clear that Trump doesn't see women as whole people. And I can't say I'm surprised at his callousness, given his well-documented record of sexual abuse. We don't need Donald Trump dictating our family lives. If this administration actually wants to support women, they should enact policies that actually make a difference.

The letter can be read [here](#).

Legislation

Youth Mental Health Research Act

On April 2, I joined Reps. Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) in introducing the [Youth Mental Health Research Act](#). This legislation aims to tackle the mental health crisis among younger generations by requiring the NIH director to establish and lead a Youth Mental Health Research Initiative. This initiative will expand research on new social, behavioral, developmental, and cognitive treatments in clinical and community settings. This legislation and a companion bill in the Senate by Senator Klobuchar (D-MN) and Senator Britt (R-AL) are important bipartisan steps in urgently addressing the youth mental crisis.

Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act

On April 10, I reintroduced the [Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act](#) which addresses the youth mental health crisis through supporting research funding, developing culturally competent providers, reducing stigmas through outreach programs, and developing a training program for providers to manage disparities. This legislation funding and support to critical departments and programs such as the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the National Institute of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Primary and Behavioral Health

Care Grant Program to promote effective practices in addressing minority health and providing adequate mental health treatment for all American.

Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Reauthorization Act

On Tuesday, I introduced the bipartisan and bicameral [Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Reauthorization Act](#). In the years since its creation, the Cold Case Records Review Board has made remarkable progress in shedding light on some of the darkest moments in our nation's history. Working without partisan bias or ideological inclination, the Review Board has proven indispensable in providing clarity and closure for the victims' families, and the communities roiled by these terrible events. Before we can finally turn the page on this dark chapter in American history, the Review Board must complete its work. This bipartisan bill with my colleagues across the aisle and across the Capitol will allow the Board to do just that. I strongly encourage leadership in both chambers to take up this legislation to once and for all lay these cases to rest.

Improving Diaper Affordability Act

On Wednesday, I joined my colleague Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03) in introducing the [Improving Diaper Affordability Act of 2025](#) to make the cost of diapers tax-free. This legislation ensures that families of all socioeconomic status can afford diapers through removing taxes from the purchase and making the purchase reimbursable through Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Diapers are a public necessity and no American family should struggle to afford them.

ICE Visibility Act

In recent months, the American people have seen several recordings and reports of [masked and plainclothes ICE officers](#), and others [impersonating](#) federal law enforcement, approaching, threatening, and in some cases abducting people who are simply going about their business. The regular use of plainclothes officers during these actions often creates significant risk to the officers, who cannot be identified by a fearful public. In addition, the knowledge that some officers are routinely in plainclothes when on duty creates an opportunity for impersonators to harass law abiding residents.

My ICE Visibility Act of 2025 would amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and all other Immigration officers, to wear visible and distinct uniforms at all times of action.

Upcoming Events

HYBRID OFFICE HOURS



CONGRESSWOMAN BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

JOINED BY:

SENATOR ANDREW ZWICKER,
ASSEMBLYWOMAN MITCHELLE DRULIS & **ASSEMBLYMAN** ROY FREIMAN

OUR OFFICE CAN HELP 12TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT RESIDENTS WITH:

- THE IRS
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- VETERANS' AFFAIRS
- MEDICARE/MEDICAID
- OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES
- CITIZENSHIP/IMMIGRATION
- LD16 STATE GOV. SERVICES

TUESDAY
MAY 6 11AM - 2PM

ON ZOOM & IN PERSON

Hillsborough Library Branch

379 South Branch Rd, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

**RSVP
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HERE**



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**DISTRICT OFFICE
EWING, NJ
(609) 883-0026**

On Tuesday May 6th my office is holding a Hybrid Office Hours in Hillsborough at Hillsborough Library Branch, from 11am to 2pm.

Please sign up or stop by if you need any help navigating a federal agency, accessing your benefits, or have any general questions about a government service. [RSVP HERE.](#)



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