



Friends and neighbors,

This week we saw renewed **violence in Gaza**, Trump's claim he's shutting down the **Department of Education**, and the **Social Security Administration face even more cuts** from this administration. I also attended a **town hall** in Rep. Jeff Van Drew's district to hear from New Jerseyans concerned about cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. It's been a busy week. Let's get into it.

Citizen's Town Hall in NJ-02

On Monday, I was invited to join a town hall in New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District, which is represented by Republican Jeff Van Drew. He was also invited to join the town hall, but declined.

Over 400 people showed up to share their concerns about what's going on in Washington. I heard from folks concerned about Medicaid cuts, reduced access to Social Security, and Elon Musk's access to our personal data. These are all serious issues, and I share New Jerseyans' outrage.

It's disappointing that Rep. Van Drew isn't holding in-person town halls, given that he has many constituents who rely on the services the [Republican budget proposes to cut](#).

It's a real shame Republicans have been [told by their leadership not to hold town halls](#). The policies they're proposing have real, serious, negative impacts on the people they're supposed to represent. I'll keep fighting to protect access to basic services for my constituents New Jerseyans - whether you voted for me or not.

Mercer County Resource Fair

Mark your calendars!

On **APRIL 17th** from **2:00PM - 5:00PM** my office is holding a Resource Fair at **Mercer County Community College**.

The Resource Fair is your one stop shop for veterans, seniors, and constituent resources. Whether you need help navigating a federal agency, or have questions about your benefits, someone will be happy to help you.

See you there!



Princeton Passport Clinic

On Thursday my office held a Passport Clinic at the Princeton Municipal Center. We were joined by Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello, and together we were able to help nearly 100 residents renew their passport, get a new passport altogether, or update their passport photo.

We hold clinics like this throughout the 12th District regularly, so keep an eye out here, and on my social media channels for information on the next one!



What's Happening with the Department of Education

Trump signed an executive order yesterday that he claims [shuts down the Department of Education](#). There's just one problem with that: he can't. His order doesn't have any legal authority, and this, like many other things, will play out in the courts.

But there are a few things to be mindful of while that happens. The first is that even though Trump cannot legally shut down the Department of Education, he can still do real damage to education in America.

Millions of children across the country rely on the Department of Education for things like Pell Grants that help low-income students afford a high-quality education. Or accommodations for kids with disabilities who deserve the same opportunity to learn and grow. It also supports school lunch programs, vocational training, and school safety measures.

All of this important work will either be limited or eliminated while this plays out. That doesn't help anybody. That only hurts kids who want to learn like everybody else.

So why are they doing this? To get another shocking headline that distracts us from the fact they're not doing anything to bring down costs and that his [erratic trade war](#) is [tanking the economy](#) and actually [increasing costs for everyone](#).

Netanyahu Breaks the Ceasefire

Earlier this week, Benjamin Netanyahu [broke the ceasefire](#) brokered by the United States, which provided for the staggered release of the hostages, and the steady withdrawal of troops from Gaza.

Despite ongoing negotiations, Netanyahu ordered airstrikes that [killed over 400 Palestinians](#) in the first hours. He ordered these strikes on the [same day he was supposed to testify in his own corruption trial](#). It is a sickening abuse of power and a violation of human rights.

Reports are that President Trump gave Netanyahu the "[green light](#)" to renew the strikes in Gaza, breaking yet another promise to bring the war to a close.

This cannot continue. We need not only a ceasefire but an embargo on offensive weapons to Israel. [Our tax dollars](#) cannot and should not be used to pay for bombs to kill innocent children halfway around the world.

There are people right here, in our communities throughout the 12th District, who have lost dozens of family members to this war. It has to stop. Netanyahu will only change his behavior if he is forced to.

Attacks on Social Security

The Trump Administration announced they would [no longer allow beneficiaries](#) the option to either enroll to receive their benefits or update their payment information over the phone. Now, it's either in person or online.

About 40% of folks use the Social Security phone lines, many because they're not internet-savvy or they don't live near a field office. That shouldn't be a barrier to receiving your hard-earned benefits.

You're probably thinking that since they're going to force more people to show up in person at field offices, they're probably going to open up some more offices and hire some more staff to meet the increased demand, right?

Nope. They're doing the opposite. [They're firing 7,000 Social Security Administration workers](#) and [shutting down 47 field offices](#) across the country. They're trying to kill Social Security with a thousand cuts, stealing the benefits Americans have worked hard for throughout their careers. (Luckily, this wave of office closings does not impact any field offices in New Jersey, yet.)

Meanwhile, Democrats are fighting to protect Social Security. Senator Sanders has a proposal to [lift the income cap on Social Security taxes](#), meaning that the wealthy pay their fair share, which would ensure the solvency of Social Security for at least another 75 years.

When it comes to Social Security, the contrast is clear. Democrats have a plan to protect it for future generations. Trump is cutting it to pay for tax breaks for his rich donors.

My Letter to the Trump Administration

This week, I sent a [letter](#) to the Trump Administration demanding more information on their so-called "Five Bullet Points" order. This order insisted that federal employees send an email each week laying out "five bullet points" of things they'd accomplished that week.

The assumption that requiring all federal employees to email a government office outside their agency would *increase* efficiency is not only insulting to the work that federal employees do but poses very serious national security risks.

Federal agencies have their own reporting and employee performance evaluation processes for a reason. Agency heads are far more qualified to judge the quality of their employees' work than some inexperienced intern at DOGE.

My letter seeks clarification on several essential points. I want to know who is receiving these emails, who is going through them to evaluate the work quality of federal employees, on what basis they're evaluating that performance, and how they're ensuring national security is not compromised by sending sensitive information via email.

This is the kind of clown show you can expect when someone who doesn't understand how the government buys their way to the top of it. I will continue to support federal workers as they perform the crucial work that keeps our public services working.

Bridgewater Town Hall

On Sunday (3/23) I'll be attending a town hall in Bridgewater. Bridgewater Township straddles both my district and Rep. Tom Kean's district.

Rep. Kean, however, hasn't been holding town halls. He's been hiding from his voters because he knows he can't justify the cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security that he voted for.

Rep. Kean was invited to this town hall, but I'm not holding my breath. I'll be there to talk with New Jerseyans, hear your concerns, and share what we can all do to fight back against these abuses of power.

If you're in the area, I'd love to hear from you. You can sign up for the town hall [here](#).



DC OFFICE: (202) 225-5801 • **EWING, NJ OFFICE:** (609) 883-0026

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy](#)
