



We began this month with Trump giving a joint address to Congress where he promised to usher in a new era of American greatness. We ended the month with several Trump national security officials sharing classified information about a pending military operation on an unsecured text chain, to which they had inadvertently added the editor-in-chief of The Atlantic magazine. Life comes at you fast.

Signal scandals aside, it was a busy month in Washington. I introduced several pieces of legislation, sent multiple letters to administration officials, and attended town halls throughout New Jersey to talk to you all directly about what's happening in the Nation's Capital.

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Funding Bill

On March 11th, I voted against the Republicans' funding proposal that sought to cut support for Medicare and Medicaid. The bill also took power out of the hands of the peoples' elected representatives in Congress and gave it to Donald Trump and Elon Musk with what amounts to an unregulated slush fund. The bill cut housing, veterans' benefits and put Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid at risk. I'm proud to have voted against it, and will always fight to protect the programs that New Jerseyans rely on.

Town Halls

Pleasantville

On March 17th, I attended a Town Hall in Pleasantville to discuss potential cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security in the Republican budget resolution. Pleasantville is outside of my district, but the good folks there hadn't been given

Upcoming Events:

On April 17th from 2:00pm - 5:00pm my office will be holding a **Constituent Services Fair** at the **4th Floor of the Trenton Hall Building at Mercer County Community College**.

Please swing by if you need assistance with navigating a federal agency, accessing your benefits, or have any questions for my staff.

the chance to speak to their representative, Congressman Jeff Van Drew, directly since he voted on that budget bill. I was glad to attend and speak with New Jerseyans about the impact this resolution will have on the programs many of us rely on.



Bridgewater

One week later, on March 23, I spoke to residents of the 12th and 7th District in Bridgewater, NJ at a “Stop the Cuts” town hall. As in Pleasantville, many residents were upset that their representative, in this case Rep. Tom Kean, had not come to speak to them about his vote to cut \$880 billion from crucial health care services that nearly 2 million New Jerseyans rely on.

My staff is currently working to schedule additional town halls in North Plainfield, Cranbury, and Monroe in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for updates on when and where these will be held.



Mahmoud Khalil

On March 9th, Mahmoud Khalil, a legal permanent resident — a green card holder — was taken by ICE agents from his home in New York and sent to Louisiana to be processed for deportation because he participated in Pro-Palestine protests last year.

Let me be clear: Mr. Khalil has not been charged with a crime. He has not been accused of a crime. He has not committed a crime. The Trump Administration has openly admitted this is only because he engaged in non-violent, constitutionally-protected political speech which they don't agree with.

On March 14th, I [signed a letter](#) with 106 other members of Congress demanding answers from the Administration on this threat to free speech, and calling on them to release him at once.

The Trump Administration has said they will target other students the same way and that “this is the first arrest of many to come.”

We are a nation of laws, laws that protect our civil liberties and our freedoms. In this country, we each have an inalienable right to speak our minds, and generations of Americans have marched, fought, and died for the rights Trump and his enablers continue to violate. In trampling Mahmoud Khalil's right to free speech and ignoring his civil liberties, the President reveals his willingness to attack us all.

I condemn the Administration's actions in the strongest possible terms, demand Mr. Khalil's immediate release, and [call on all Americans](#) to remain alert, not to give into fear, and to be outspoken in defense of our freedoms.

Gaza Press Conference

On March 25th, I hosted a [press conference](#) outside the U.S. Capitol following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to abandon the ceasefire in Gaza. After the establishment of the ceasefire and the conclusion of the first phase of the peace agreement, which provided for the release of several hostages, the conflict had fallen largely out of public view.

The decision by Netanyahu to break off the ceasefire, abandon negotiations, and resume bombing civilian areas of Gaza should shock the conscience of the Western World. In the Israeli strikes that marked the end of the ceasefire, over 400 Palestinians were killed, including the cousin of one of my constituents, along with their newborn son.

I convened this press conference to draw renewed attention to the violence that has resumed in Gaza, to call for an arms embargo on Israel until it changes course, and to call on leaders both in the United States and around the world to take action to stop this senseless violence.



Newsweek Op-Ed

As part of my effort to refocus attention on the violence in Gaza, I wrote an opinion column for Newsweek. In the article I call for an arms embargo on Israel as a means to encourage negotiation rather than continued violence. In the past, the United States and our allies have been able to get Israel to change course when we wanted to. We still retain that power as their largest supplier of weapons. We must, morally, use that power to stop the senseless killing in Gaza and re-establish a lasting ceasefire. Both Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in safety and security. The families of the remaining hostages deserve to see their loved ones returned. And the children of Gaza deserve a future beyond the rubble that now surrounds them.

You can read the piece [here](#).

Letter to Trump White House

On March 17th, I sent a [letter](#) to the Trump Administration demanding more information on their so-called “Five Bullet Points” order. The assumption that providing these bullet points to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will help with government efficiency is not only unfounded but is insulting to federal employees and a potential security risk. Federal employees in all agencies have a system in which they report the work they conduct and have a specific chain-of-command that they report to. Sending these emails to OPM is inefficient for workers and burdensome to review on a weekly basis.

Legislation Introduced

[Renaming School Lunch Program Act](#): This bill would rename the National School Lunch Program for Jean E. Fairfax who created and led the Committee on School Lunch Participation.

[Stop Comstock Act](#): This bill would repeal sections of the Comstock Act of 1873 that could be used to enact a nationwide abortion ban without any Congressional action.

[HELPER Act](#): This bill expands homeownership access for teachers and first responders by eliminating some of the barriers that homebuyers face.

[Homes for Young Adults Act](#): This bill aims to address youth homelessness through increasing eligibility and access to Housing Choice Vouchers.

[Colorectal Cancer Resolution](#): This resolution calls attention to the devastating impact that colorectal cancer has on the Black community and urges a review of colorectal cancer screening guidelines.



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