



Dear Neighbor,

Another week has passed with no action by Donald Trump or Congressional Republicans to negotiate with Democrats to protect healthcare and reopen the government. This week, I met with folks struggling to maintain services to our District 12 neighbors. I'm also working with my fellow Democrats in the New Jersey Delegation to prevent the cancelation of the vitally important Gateway Tunnel between New York and New Jersey. In addition, I teamed up with my colleague Yassamin Ansari to introduce a package of legislation to fight the mental health crisis in America.

### **In this week's newsletter**

1. Impact of Republican cuts on working families in the 12th District
2. Shutdown Update
3. Threats to Cancel the Hudson Tunnel
4. Mental Health Legislation
5. Trump Corruption World Tour
6. Congressional App Challenge

### **Impact of Republican Cuts on Working Families**

On Friday, I visited the Children's Home Society of New Jersey. I met with mothers who rely on WIC and SNAP, caseworkers who go above and beyond their job descriptions to keep families connected to life-saving resources, and a leadership team who continues to sound the alarm - while not turning away any person who comes to their door for help.

We discussed how their Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve as a crucial pathway to setting young families up for success, yet many families are at risk of losing access to essential childcare due to Republican policies.

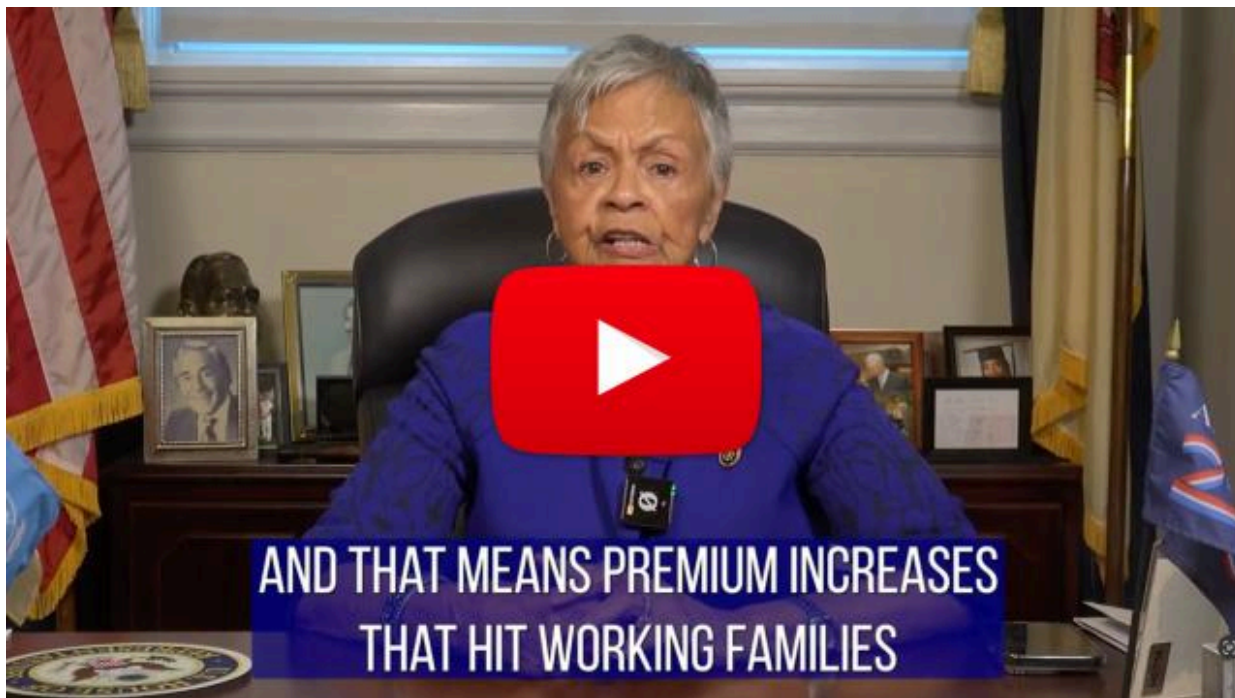
### **Working for You**

Despite the shutdown, my staff is continuing to work for you.

If you need help with a federal agency, reach out to my office at (609) 883-0026 or [click here](#).

### **Service Academy Nominations**

We have extended our office deadline to apply for a nomination to a US Military Service Academy. If you or someone you know in the 12th District is interested in learning more, or applying, please [visit here](#).



One mother told me she was reluctant to turn to WIC or SNAP - not wanting to 'put a strain' on the government, or take resources away from another person in need. Well, I'm here to say: the entire purpose of these programs is to help lift struggling families up before they hit the bottom - and yet the Republican narrative of scarce resources and public shaming is deterring people from getting the help that they need.

[I want to hear from you how the Republican Shutdown and increasing healthcare costs will impact you. Click Here.](#)

### Shutdown Update

The government shutdown continues to affect families across our district and around the country. Federal employees are missing paychecks, vital programs like WIC and SNAP are being strained, and small businesses that depend on government contracts are facing uncertainty. My office recently hosted an [emergency tele-town hall](#) to answer questions and connect constituents with available resources. I remain committed to reopening our government and ensuring families don't bear the cost of Republican dysfunction in Washington.

My office is still open and my staff are still working for you.

### Threats to Cancel Hudson Tunnel

On Wednesday, [Donald Trump said](#) he was cancelling the funding for the Gateway Project's Hudson Tunnel. Trump's threat to cancel the tunnel - a project to replace the 115 year old train tunnel beneath the Hudson River - will damage the economy of the entire country. The Northeast Corridor Line is the most heavily-trafficked rail line in the United States, in an area of the country responsible for 20% of the nation's GDP.

Trump is so vindictive and ignorant he'll hurt every American. The good of the country doesn't matter to him. The [livelihoods of Americans](#) are expendable to him.

### Mental Health Legislation

Late last week, [Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari](#) and I introduced a Mental Health Emergency Package—three bills that would expand access to life-saving care, reduce reliance on law enforcement for behavioral health emergencies, and demonstrate our

shared commitment to ensuring every young person and family has the support they need.

Rep. Ansari's [Youth Mental Health Day and Suicide Prevention Day Resolution](#) would declare the need for increased investments in youth mental health, recognizes May 31st as Youth Mental Health Day and September 9th as Youth Suicide Prevention Day, and calls on federal, state, and local governments to prioritize youth mental health and suicide prevention.

My [Mental Health Crisis Response Act](#) would establish Department of Justice grants to help communities implement health-centered crisis response strategies, including embedding mental health professionals in 911 systems and creating seamless connections to 988 and local crisis teams.

Rep. Ansari's [Mental Health Emergency Responder Act](#) would create a competitive grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services to expand behavioral health crisis response programs that do not rely primarily on law enforcement, including clinician-led mobile crisis teams.

America is facing a mental health crisis. Every suicide is a devastating, but avoidable, tragedy. This package of legislation recognizes the crisis we are facing and the need to enact studied and proven solutions.

Sadly, just two days later, on World Mental Health Day, the [Trump Administration fired 125 workers](#) at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). So far this year, Trump has cut the workforce at SAMHSA in half. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away. I've worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to promote bipartisan solutions and get people the help they need.

## Trump Corruption World Tour

In this week's Trump Corruption World Tour, we discuss Trump's illegal scheme to create a "Gold Card" to grant the wealthy foreign elite a way to fast-track residency while avoiding taxes.



## Congressional App Challenge

Calling all middle and high school students in New Jersey's 12th District - the deadline for this year's Congressional App Challenge is coming up! This is your opportunity to design an app that solves a problem, helps your community, or just showcases your creativity.



Whether you're an experienced coder or just getting started, I am so excited to see what you can build. The deadline to submit your app is October 30 - Learn more and register at: [congressionalappchallenge.us](http://congressionalappchallenge.us)



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