



Dear Neighbor,

As the government shutdown stretches on, the weight of GOP dysfunction is falling hardest on the people who can least afford it. Families across New Jersey are missing paychecks, federal employees are forced to choose between groceries and rent - many are seeking information as to whether or not they and their loved ones will have health insurance next month. Speaker Mike Johnson has cancelled yet another week of votes - and continues to delay the swearing-in of Rep.-elect Adelita Grijalva because Republicans are more concerned with protecting Epstein than democracy, or the wellbeing of the American people. It's cruel, it's unnecessary, and it's the direct result of the political posturing that has defined the Republican party.

While workers go unpaid and foodbanks are stretched thin, the president has demolished the *entire* East Wing of the White House to build himself a \$300 million ballroom - funded by corporate donors paying into future favors, and approved without the reviews required for a national landmark. Trump is literally tearing down our nation's history, the People's House, while millions of Americans struggle to make ends meet.

The cruelty and corruption of this administration carries on, but Democrats in Congress are doing all that we can to push back against their spiteful tactics. This week, I checked in with the largest anti-hunger, anti-poverty organization in the state to talk about how this shutdown is affecting our neighbors. I also reintroduced my legislation to guarantee income for working Americans, all while the Trump administration wasted hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

In this week's e-newsletter

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Shutdown Resources

You may find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the shutdown's impact on services by visiting [my website](#).

If you've been impacted by the government shutdown, there are resources to help. [Click here](#) to learn more about how you can get Food, Housing, and Childcare Assistance in your area.

12th District residents react to GOP Cuts and the Shutdown

"The cost of everything has gone up. I'm a senior on social security, I am fortunate to have savings but worry about my money lasting in case of unforeseen circumstances. I worry about the current administration making changes to Medicare and Social Security."

- Regina from North Plainfield

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

How the Shutdown is Impacting Working Families in New Jersey

Earlier this week, I stopped by the [Community Food Bank of NJ](#) to have a conversation with their President and CEO Elizabeth McCarthy about what this shutdown means for the folks working and volunteering their time to keep families fed, the pressures that local food banks are under as more families turn to them for help, and how federal programs - like SNAP and WIC - are being strained by continued cuts and the inaction of House Republicans.



The Community Food Bank of New Jersey has always stepped up to meet the needs of all who rely on them, and I'm committed to making sure they are able to continue serving our neighbors.

Defending Congressional Oversight

On Tuesday, several of my colleagues and [I traveled](#) to Newark to support Congresswoman LaMonica McIver as she [defended herself](#) from outrageous charges brought by the Trump Administration dating back to the inspection tour Representatives McIver, Menendez, and I conducted at the Delaney Hall Detention Center in May.

DHS's charges are meant to intimidate Members of Congress from performing their constitutional responsibility of oversight of the deeply troubled agency.



Delaney Hall was operating in violation of Newark law and was grossly inadequate to house DHS detainees, as we saw when four later escaped detention by pushing down a wall.

Trump Corruption

Latest Lawsuit

In an act without precedent, President Trump is demanding that the Department of Justice pay him personally \$230 million in so-called damages for the completely warranted investigations into his conduct before and after taking office. What makes this even more alarming is that the very people now tasked with approving this payout are his former defense lawyers - officials who owe their positions to him and remain personally loyal to his interests.

If approved, taxpayers would be footing the bill for a president to pay himself. How is this the same administration that has been cutting life-saving funding under the guise of “government efficiency” - and how can any one person justify the presidential use of the DOJ as a personal bank account? It is beyond unethical; it is an openly corrupt abuse of power.

Luxury Private Planes for Cabinet Members

While the government remains closed and Americans are missing paychecks and struggling to provide for their families, Homeland Security Kristi Noem has approved the purchase of two luxury private jets for herself and other senior DHS officials at a cost of more than \$170 million in public funds. The Coast Guard’s previous request was for one plane costing \$50 million - which really highlights the gross misuse of taxpayer money by an administration that will cut healthcare benefits for millions of Americans in the name of “efficiency,” only to waste hundreds of millions so a cabinet member can travel on the newest luxury private jets.

Meanwhile, ICE spending has also surged by more than \$70 million on weapons and

munitions under Trump's skewed leadership - a 700% increase since he returned to office. It's part of the same pattern we've seen under this administration all along - providing wasteful excess for Trump and friends while everyday Americans watch their tax dollars burning away.

Trump Corruption World Tour

Trump and his administration has turned our justice system into a tool for punishing dissent. Through a series of executive orders - that cannot be legally justified - Trump has targeted law firms that represented his opponents, or challenged his policies.

When the government gets to decide who can represent whom, the rule of law becomes a political weapon. Our ability to retain counsel and challenge authority - even the authority of the government - is our last line of defense against an administration that is counting on intimidation tactics to discourage us.



Find the entire [Trump Corruption World Tour series here](#).

Bill to Protect Working Families

The Coronavirus pandemic, while devastating for everyday families, resulted in the wealthiest Americans doubling their fortunes and widening the gap between the super-rich and the rest of us. The recurring government shutdowns and illegal firings of the federal workforce show the precariousness of what was once believed to be steady, secure jobs.

While millionaires and billionaires thrive on the labor of hard-working Americans, those working families see just a fraction of the profits and continue to live paycheck-to-paycheck. Increasing automation and advancing A.I. have the potential to expand human flourishing. However, the concentration of control of those technologies into the hands of a few billionaires, may mean the eventual [loss of the livelihoods](#) of millions of Americans.

A universal guaranteed income would help insulate working Americans from natural and man-made disasters and the economic fallout.

Today, I introduced the [Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act](#), legislation that would establish a nationwide pilot program to test the viability of a federally funded income support program that keeps more American families from experiencing permanent financial fallout and lasting poverty from a single unexpected crisis.

Tens of millions of Americans are living paycheck-to-paycheck. Almost three in five do not have the savings to weather an emergency expense of \$1000. Events like the Coronavirus Pandemic, economic fluctuations, and increasing automation and job losses threaten to wipe out what little savings they have, to finally push them to homelessness, to reinforce the fact that in the wealthiest nation in the world, too many families are just a single mishap away from financial devastation.

What we learned when Congress made the decision to send economic impact payments through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan was that our government can [prevent people from falling into poverty](#), it can build a floor beneath which we say no one in this country should fall. This bill is all about looking at ways to make that floor permanent, giving more families the sense of economic security they deserve.

Learn more about the bill and how it works [here](#).

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