



Dear Neighbors,

I want to first wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween.

October has been a month that revealed both the best and the worst of our government. While our communities and local governments in New Jersey have shown compassion, resilience, and care for one another, the Trump administration has continued to show a level of cruelty and corruption that defies comprehension. For four weeks, the federal government has been shut down - hurting workers, families, and small businesses. Across the country, federal employees have gone without pay. At the same time, the president demolished part of the White House to build a \$300 million ballroom for his donors.

Meanwhile, our Trump Corruption World Tour series has continued exposing how this administration uses power for personal profit. This month alone, we've seen the president pardon a convicted crypto billionaire who hired his family's lobbyists, demand that the Department of Justice pay him \$230 million in so-called "damages," and watch as his Homeland Security Secretary signed off on \$170 million worth of private jets during a shutdown. These are not isolated acts; they are the picture of a government run for the powerful few at the expense of everyone else.

But in the face of that cruelty, I have spent this month in New Jersey, meeting with families, passionate public officials, and organizations who remind us what public service should look like. Whether it's keeping food on tables, sharing resources, supporting our most vulnerable communities, or fighting to keep working families paid, I am proud to stand with the people who have continued to rise to the challenge and take care of their neighbors throughout hardship.

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Government Shutdown and Federal Workers

The shutdown has now lasted more than four weeks, and its consequences are becoming harder to ignore. Federal workers across New

Jamesburg Hybrid Office Hours

On Thursday, November 6. My staff will be at the Jamesburg Public Library from 11AM-2PM. Come with your questions about your federal benefits or help with Social Security, the IRS, Veterans Affairs, and other federal services.

Or you can [RSVP here](#) to get help virtually.

Jersey are missing paychecks, while families struggle to access vital programs like WIC and SNAP. Local businesses that rely on government contracts are hanging on by a thread. While Republican politicians in Washington refuse to negotiate to protect the healthcare of millions, the victims are ordinary Americans who deserve better.

In solidarity with federal employees who are working or furloughed without pay, I have chosen to [forgo my own congressional salary](#) for the duration of the shutdown. No one in public office should be paid while thousands of workers are being told to get by with nothing. My office continues to assist families affected by the shutdown and to push for an immediate reopening of the government.

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

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

Impact of the Shutdown Here at Home

While the Speaker of the House has canceled votes for the entire month of October, I have used this time to be out in the community, meeting directly with the people I serve. I hosted an emergency telephone town hall to answer questions about the shutdown and connect families with resources.



This week, I visited the [Trenton Area Soup Kitchen](#) and [Mercer Street Friends](#) food bank, two organizations that have stepped up to provide meals and essential support to neighbors who are struggling. These visits are reminders that leadership starts with listening, and that when Washington fails to act, it is local communities that fill the gaps.

Conversations on Food Insecurity and Resources

The refusal of the Trump Administration to use the SNAP contingency fund and instead let it close means over 800,000 people in New Jersey will struggle with food insecurity. This includes over 340,000 children, 176,000 seniors, and 240,000 people with disabilities.

Earlier this month, I joined Elizabeth McCarthy, President and CEO of the [Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#), for a conversation about how food insecurity is rising as federal programs face cuts and uncertainty.



This week, I also spoke with Michael Wilson, the Deputy Commissioner of the [New Jersey Department of Human Services](#), about how the shutdown and Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" will further strain SNAP benefits, pushing hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents - and millions across the country - closer to hunger. These discussions reinforced what we already know: the cruelty of these policies is deliberate, and their harm is real.

Shutdown's Impact on Constituent Services

It has been revealed that the Social Security field office in Bridgewater does not have enough staff to properly assist constituents. If you need assistance with your Social Security, you can still call my District Office, but please note that the shutdown has impacted the time it takes for my staff to get responses from the Social Security Administration.

Yesterday, the Trump administration officially ended automatic extensions of

employment authorization for eligible immigrant workers. This is a purely political move that will cost jobs, disrupt families, and harm the entire economy. Unsurprisingly, the decision disproportionately targets immigrants of color, including tens of thousands of essential workers in healthcare, education, and food service. It will force many lawful residents out of work, push families into crisis, and create needless labor shortages across critical sectors.

The cruelty of this policy is matched only by its economic ignorance. As more people lose their ability to work, costs will rise, services will strain, and affordability will worsen for all of us. It's another reminder that this administration's policies are not, and have never been, about public good.

Protecting the Hudson Tunnel Project

The president's reckless [comments about "terminating"](#) the Hudson Tunnel project were a reminder of how fragile progress can be under this administration. This project, critical to New Jersey's economy and to hundreds of thousands of daily commuters, remains under threat from political retaliation.

Despite his own Transportation Department's acknowledgment that the project should move forward, the administration continues to withhold billions of dollars in promised funding. I'm working with [our delegation](#) to protect these jobs and ensure that New Jersey's infrastructure cannot be used as leverage in someone's political fight.

Trump Corruption

This week on our Trump Corruption World Tour, we revisit some corrupt themes from President Trump including crypto currency corruption and pardoning criminal billionaires.



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

Legislation

Bill to Protect Working Families through a Guaranteed Income

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.

Mental Health Legislation

This month, [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.

Protecting the Upper Raritan River

On Tuesday, Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. and I introduced the [Upper Raritan River Watershed Wild and Scenic River Study Act](#). This bipartisan legislation would direct the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study evaluating the Upper Raritan River and its key tributaries for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Upper Raritan River is a local treasure. The ongoing restoration has been a success story and the river must be protected. It not only provides clean drinking water and irrigation for local farms, its waters have been a source of recreation for Central and North Jersey families.



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