



Dear Neighbor,

This is a hard e-newsletter to write as I must inform you that, after much thought and prayer, I have decided not to run for re-election. Despite this, I will continue to work for you for the remainder of this Congress (the end of 2026), including working to pass legislation that protects your healthcare, even if Republicans in the House, Senate, and White House didn't feel it was a priority.

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I will not be running for re-election

I have been blessed in my life to be surrounded by loved ones who have always valued the importance of serving the public, and I have never taken that opportunity to serve for granted. I truly believe that 'to whom much is given, much is required' and, as such, I have always prioritized the people I represent above any personal or professional gain.

The values and principles instilled in my brothers and me at a young age from our parents, John and Marie Watson, have been a guiding light on this incredible journey in public service and they are the very same ideals that inform my decision now. I made this decision with tremendous thought and reflection, and through many personal conversations with my husband Bill and my family. I am confident it is the right choice for me and my family who have graciously sacrificed by my side when I placed serving our community above all else and I can truly say, I am at peace with my decision.

I made a commitment years ago to always lead the charge on behalf of those I represent, and I believe I have fulfilled that commitment to the very best of my abilities.

I have always stood on the frontlines in the fight for principled progressive policies and my work has centered on the belief that there must be a floor below which we should never allow any child, family, or person to fall. This is evident in my legislative agenda to build an economy for all, reform our criminal justice system, achieve health equity, and eliminate poverty. I believe we must secure everlasting peace to conflicts all around the globe and pray our leaders advocate for a two-state solution that paves the way for peace, prosperity, and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians. I believe in giving

Our District Office

While the federal government officially reopened on Wednesday evening some agencies will take some time to work through backlogs and get back to normal operations.

If you need assistance with a federal agency please don't hesitate to reach out to my district office. You can do so [online](#) or by calling (609)883-0026.

voice to truth, speaking truth to power, and I believe as a consequence of that, we have been able to effect real results that will be felt in communities across America for generations. I also believe now is the time to pass the torch to the next leader who will continue leading this charge.

It is my fervent hope that whoever is next elected to serve the people of the 12th Congressional District will be a public servant grounded in strong moral principles and an unabashed advocate in the United States Congress on behalf of those they have the privilege to represent. I hope we will see, in this district and districts across the nation, representatives who, in the words of my dear former colleague and friend, Congressman John Lewis, stand ready to, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history. Last week our country saw what happens when we work together and we stand against the horrific and oppressive policies emanating from the Trump White House. In elections across the country and especially right here at home in New Jersey, we saw the undeniable power when diverse coalitions, marginalized voices, and organized communities stand with one voice united behind shared goals rooted in the belief that we are our brother's keeper. Those goals do not change. We must continue to stand and fight against those who would target the vulnerable and attempt to harm our democracy.

I have never been a prideful person just as I have never taken my many blessings for granted, but I can say today that I believe we were able to make a tremendous positive impact for many people, and for that I am grateful. I am honored to have served my constituents who faithfully trusted me to be their voice. I am blessed to have been in this fight with my esteemed colleagues and friends in the New Jersey Assembly and the United States Congress. And, I have been fortunate to have had the unwavering support of an awesome team of dedicated, talented, and compassionate staffers. We have a lot more to do over the next year and the fight goes on. I look forward to finishing out that work.

I want to assure everyone that my office remains open. While I am not seeking re-election, there is still more to be done in my last year in public office. I absolutely intend to continue serving my constituents in the 12th district straight through to the last day of my term. That includes both the work of representing you in Washington AND in my District Office, assisting you with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the IRS, Social Security, or any other federal agency you may need help with. As always, you can reach my district office [online](#) or over the phone at (609)883-0026.

Federal Government Shutdown Ends

I am happy to see the government reopen and federal workers get back on the job. Those who have been working throughout the shutdown will also be paid for the first time in 6 weeks. However, the deal struck in the Senate - that passed the House on Wednesday - was a terrible one for the American people.

Americans across the country are demanding a solution that avoids catastrophic increases to healthcare premiums. Sadly, but not surprisingly, Trump and Congressional Republicans refused to come to the table and negotiate.

From the beginning, I've said I was ready to work to reopen the government and protect the healthcare of my constituents. Point blank, this so-called "deal" failed that fundamental test. As a result, tens of thousands of 12th District residents will lose their health coverage. Many more will see their premiums skyrocket.

This bill will cost lives. When health coverage rates go down, avoidable deaths rise. Every time Republicans force a vote on cutting healthcare, what they are really doing is voting to risk the lives of tens of thousands of their fellow Americans. Anyone who voted to end these subsidies has a hand in the deaths of thousands of Americans.

In addition, eight Republican Senators slipped in [a provision](#) allowing them to sue the government if they were investigated for their involvement in efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential Election, a truly corrupt move that could cost taxpayers millions of dollars. It was so egregious even some House Republicans have vowed to address it with legislation in the coming weeks.

Due to a pinched nerve resulting from a herniated disc in my back that made travel impossible, and at the recommendation of my doctors, I was unable to travel to DC to cast my vote against this bill.

I look forward to being back in Washington, DC, next week. There, I will immediately sign the discharge petition introduced by Leader Jeffries to extend the ACA premium tax credits and save healthcare for millions of Americans.

Next week, I will be back in DC and back in the Budget Committee as we hold oversight hearings for the first time in months. Congress, with its newest member, [Adelita Grijalva](#) - finally sworn in 6 weeks after winning her election - will vote on the release of the [Epstein Files](#), bringing justice to victims and beginning to hold perpetrators accountable.

Joy Beyond June

My office is continuing to provide our LGBTQIA+ community access to resources and community in an affirming space. Now more than ever, LGBTQIA+ folks are more at risk for mental health struggles. On December 6th, we will bring together vendors, community, and mental health providers to support the LGBTQIA+ community as we move into the winter season, knowing that the holidays can be challenging, mentally and emotionally for all.

[RSVP Here.](#)

Congresswoman
Bonnie Watson Coleman's
LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board
presents

Joy Beyond June

COMMUNITY DAY

MERCER COUNTY OFFICE PARK
1440 PARKSIDE AVE., EWING TOWNSHIP, NJ 08638

RSVP HERE

DECEMBER 6TH | 2-5PM

Join us for a gathering of community featuring mental health providers, LGBTQIA+ affirming organizations, and seasonal support as we continue to hold a safe space for our LGBTQIA+ 12th Congressional District residents.



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