



Dear Neighbor,

Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanza. It was a busy week in DC as I introduced legislation to curb some of the corrupt moneymaking schemes we've seen from this administration. In addition, Democrats and a few Republicans have forced a vote on an extension of the ACA subsidies to keep premiums from skyrocketing. Unfortunately, Speaker Johnson appears to be delaying the vote as long as he can, and the vote won't come until January.

I'll write to you again in 2026. In the mean time, I wish you health and happiness in the New Year.

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ACA Subsidies Extension

This week, a discharge petition received enough signatures to [force a vote on extending the ACA subsidies](#). However, instead of holding the vote right away, Speaker Johnson has pushed the vote as far into the future as he can.

The Speaker [could have held this vote](#) Wednesday, Thursday, or today and given Americans some sense of relief going into the holiday season. Instead, he's delaying the vote as long as House rules will allow him: until January.

Families are facing higher healthcare costs because Speaker Johnson is blocking a simple vote to extend the ACA tax credits - even though there is bipartisan support. It's shameful.

Stop Padding Presidential Pockets Act / Trump Corruption World Tour

On Wednesday, I introduced The Stop Padding Presidential Pockets Act.



[This bill](#) requires reimbursement to taxpayers when Secret Service protection is used to advance the president's private business interests. It prevents a sitting president or their immediate family from personally suing the Justice Department. It stops presidents and their families from soliciting donations for future presidential libraries while still in office. It requires a president to fully step away from personal business activity - or forfeit the income entirely. And it establishes regular financial reporting requirements for immediate family members who benefit from proximity to power.

These are basic safeguards. They would protect taxpayers, whoever occupies the Oval Office. The presidency is a public trust. It should never be used as a mechanism for private profit.

Bondi Beach Shooting / Brown University Shooting

The horrific murders at Bondi Beach on the first day of Hanukkah displayed for all to see the hate that still exists in this world. My heart goes out to the victims, their families, and all people impacted, including the Jewish community around the world.

I'm grateful to the authorities who took action and the [bystanders](#), including [Ahmed al Ahmed](#), whose courageous act, tackling and disarming one of the shooters, saved countless lives.

This week also saw the tragic murder of two students and wounding of nine others at Brown University and the frightening days long manhunt that followed. An anonymous [good samaritan](#) helped authorities identify the shooter.

We are all children of God. We must learn to see in each other the humanity God granted us. May He comfort those impacted, and may he grant us all the ability to extinguish hate and create a more peaceful world.

CPC Taskforce on Rebuilding and Reimagining the Government

On Monday, I announced the creation of the [Congressional Progressive Caucus's Taskforce on Rebuilding and Reimagining the Government](#).

The taskforce, created in response to the harm the Trump Administration has done to the functioning and responsiveness of the federal government, will examine the recent erosion in the effectiveness of federal agencies within the Executive Branch and make legislative proposals to address the shortcomings of the federal government, restore and improve agencies' critical roles and functioning, protect them from destructive actions by their executive leadership, and develop bold new ideas to reorient these agencies wherever appropriate to deliver more immediate, visible, and direct benefits for the American people.

The work of this taskforce won't just protect the American people and their government from Trump's overreach. It will hold Presidents in check in the future. We've seen the damage one administration can do to the working of the federal government when our institutions are weak. However, a people's lack of trust in the ability of the Federal Government to deliver for them far preceded the Trump Presidencies.

We have a responsibility to both strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure they are oriented toward serving everyday people. This is no small task, but the Progressive Caucus has some of the most brilliant, forward-thinking, and creative minds in Congress who, I know, are up to the task of rebuilding and reimagining a government that works for everyone.

Trump's Primetime Address

What we watched in the President's address on Wednesday night was a desperate plea from a delusional man obsessed with his own image, watching his popularity crater.

In addition to the [lies and distortions](#) that we've become accustomed to with any Donald Trump statement, any American can see his terrible domestic and economic policies have wreaked havoc on our country, and instead of changing course, the President is trying to change reality.

The American people know the Trump economy isn't working for them. No amount of shouting or blustering from Trump will change that.

Venezuela

On Monday, Donald Trump announced his intention to set up a naval blockade on the country of Venezuela.

A naval blockade is an act of war, designed to provoke a response that this President can then use to escalate into a violent conflict with Venezuela.

Members of the Trump Administration have lied to us about their actions for months. They've lied about who they've been attacking in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific. They've lied about the second strikes on survivors. They've lied about the rationale for the attacks, as evidenced by the President's own statements. Many experts have pointed to some of the actions as war crimes.

We've been down this road before, and Americans don't want to lead into another regime-change war on false pretenses. The actions the President has taken in the Caribbean are those of a rogue state, not a responsible superpower.

The American people reject this aggression and see it for what it is: a dangerous escalation of violence that threatens the lives of our servicemen and women in order to

distract from his own domestic failures.

Only Congress can declare war. That's why this week, I voted for two war powers resolutions to reject Trump's reckless and illegal escalation.



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