



Dear Neighbors,

*“As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars.”*

This weekend, I’m reflecting on this quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The extreme wealth gap in this country is antithetical to the values Dr. King dedicated his life to. While the 1% gets richer and profits off the labor of others, millions struggle to put food on the table. We must fulfill our commitment to ensuring people have the opportunity to build a life for themselves and their families.

I look forward to seeing many of you at MLK events in our district on Monday, and I hope you have a restful holiday weekend.

In the meantime, my office continues to monitor ICE operations across the country, including here in the 12th District, as tension continues to mount due to violent rhetoric and illegal action taken by the Department of Homeland Security.

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### **Updates Regarding ICE Operations**

This week, ICE agents took two Princeton residents into custody, including a father of four, after he dropped off his son at school. My office has fielded calls, emails, and messages from 12th District residents as you expressed your outrage at this Administration's use of ICE as a band of armed thugs seemingly sent into communities to intimidate and harass peaceful, hardworking people. We are closely monitoring ICE's operations in our community and are doing everything we can to hold them accountable.

### **Town Hall**

Wednesday, January 28 from 6-7PM  
Center for Modern Aging Princeton -  
Suzanne Patterson Center

### **Passport Clinic**

Thursday, February 19 from 2-6:30PM  
West Windsor, Mercer County Library  
RSVP

The pretense that their mission is to arrest and deport dangerous criminals and gang members has been shown to be a lie. The [rhetoric](#) of this administration claiming this is about a "reckoning and retribution" and that agents have full immunity lays that bare. I've long called on DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to end the violent raids and illegal detentions. Noem's failure to heed the public and their representatives at all levels, as well as the gross mismanagement of her department, has led me to join my colleagues in calling for her impeachment. I stood with Members of Congress this week as Representative Robin Kelly led the introduction of the [Articles of Impeachment](#) against Noem.

The actions of Secretary Noem and her out-of-control ICE are a far greater threat to New Jersey values and American values than a father dropping his kid off at school or someone seeking safety or a better life for their family showing up at an immigration court hearing.



I also echo [Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's call](#) for Americans who value their neighbors and their safety to peacefully protest and document the illegal actions of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. A day will come when those who have violated our rights will face justice. It's up to us to voice our opposition to their actions and serve as witnesses to their crimes.

## **SAMHSA Funding Chaos**

Late Tuesday night, RFK, Jr. [cancelled every grant](#) at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. By Wednesday afternoon, amid widespread outrage, the Secretary [reversed this decision](#) without explanation, concluding a day of chaos caused by the administration.

Those cuts totaled two billion dollars meant to fight substance abuse and mental health disorders. These grants support women with postpartum depression, care for the victims of child sex trafficking, educating young people about overdose prevention, AIDS prevention, providing mental health screenings, funding suicide prevention programs on college campuses, and assistance for people trying to recover. These are critical funds going directly towards real, immediate, and impactful work.

These issues affect us all. Every family knows and loves someone who has struggled with substance abuse or with mental health challenges.

Seven years ago, I led a [taskforce](#) examining the mental health crisis that has impacted every corner of our country and worked with advocates to combat the overdose epidemic. I have spoken to numerous doctors, social workers, and too many parents of children who died by suicide or an overdose.

I've seen the pain in the eyes of mothers who have buried their children, the heartbreak of teachers struggling to explain to their students why their classmate is gone and would not be coming back, and the frustration of social workers who don't have the resources they need to help people in crisis.

The cuts were abruptly announced on Tuesday without justification and were subsequently reversed less than 24 hours later without explanation. This series of events showcases the ineptitude of Secretary Kennedy and the overzealous nature of his team. It sows confusion with providers of these services and leaves many concerned about the leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I'm working with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to put in guardrails to prevent Secretary Kennedy and the extremists in the Trump administration from ever doing this again.

## Health Care Subsidies Update

President Trump and Republicans are making our nation's affordability crisis even worse. The chaotic Trump Tariffs have driven up the cost of everything, and the Big, Ugly Bill has broken our health care system and jacked up grocery prices and utility bills. Now, the enrollment deadline for much of the country has passed this week, with New Jersey's quickly approaching.

Last week, we took decisive action to restore the Affordable Care Act tax credits and lower health care costs. The bill, led by Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, passed the House with every Democrat and 17 Republicans who defied partisan politics to do what's right. Now we are demanding that Senate Republicans drop their procedural games and pass this bill now.

On Thursday, President Trump introduced his "health plan." In fact, this isn't a plan; this isn't even a "concept of a plan." It's a half-baked grab bag of Republican talking points they've been recycling for decades.

The American people deserve better.

## The Stop Wall Street Landlords Act

I'm joining my Democratic colleagues in backing the [Stop Wall Street Landlords Act](#), a bill that would end large institutional investors' ability to use taxpayer dollars to subsidize the acquisition of single-family residential homes.

Since the 2008 housing crash and foreclosure crisis, big Wall Street firms have been buying up large swaths of available houses, driving up home prices and rents.

For far too long, the American dream has been confined to wishful thinking for millions of hard-working people. No one trying to build a life for themselves and their families should suffer from housing instability while corporations monopolize the market. Democrats have been hard at work fighting for solutions to solve the affordability crisis. It's time for Republicans to step up and work with us to pass this legislation.

## The GOP's Anti-Worker Plan

From day one, the Trump administration and Congressional GOP leadership pledged to lower prices to make life better for Americans. One year later, grocery costs have skyrocketed, health care premiums have soared, and affordable housing is more inaccessible than ever. Despite all of this, Republicans tried to pass multiple anti-worker bills this week that would make it even more difficult to provide for themselves and their families.

These bills include cutting pay for some of your basic work-related activities, like training, or if you receive reimbursements for child or elder care, and allowing employers to treat almost any worker as a "tipped employee" if they receive tips over any time period the employer chooses.

House Republicans are not trying to make life easier for you. They're focused on helping executives and special interest groups. [While one of these terrible bills failed to pass](#), two were postponed, and two more are still on the docket. The job is not finished, and House Democrats will continue to do everything in our power to block these terrible bills.

## Remembering Dick Codey

This week, we lost former State Senate President and two-time governor Dick Codey. He was strong but fair. He was accessible and always willing to listen. A champion of mental healthcare and women's health, he loved New Jersey and his constituents. He served them with dignity and respect. Bill and I are praying for Mary Jo and their children.

## Celebrating AKA's 118th Founder's Day

On Thursday, I celebrated 118 years of sisterhood and service to all mankind through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated! It has been a joy being able to stand with my sorors in Congress over the years as we fight to make the world a better place for all. We've always been called to leadership, and it's needed now more than ever to materialize the bright future that lies ahead.



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