



Dear neighbor,

This week, we saw the continued chaos from the Trump Administration nearly drive the economy into a tailspin, and the president gave one of the most partisan joint addresses to Congress I have ever seen. While I heard a staggering amount of blustering and mistruths from the president during his speech, what I didn't hear was any plan whatsoever to bring down costs for working families. Democrats will continue to pursue a strategy of legislation, litigation, and organization to prevent this administration from putting millions of Americans in danger. Here's some more of what happened this week.

The President's Remarks to a Joint Session of Congress

President Trump's address to the joint session of Congress on Tuesday failed to address many of the issues I'm hearing from voters in the 12th District. I didn't hear any plans to bring down costs for working families.

Instead, we heard the same hateful lying that we saw from him on the campaign trail. I don't think anyone told him this wasn't a campaign rally.

Social Security

Of the many falsehoods Trump told during his speech, perhaps the most dangerous were the ones about Social Security. He claimed millions of dead people were collecting Social Security checks. This is a tried and true Trump pattern - lie repeatedly, then take extremely harmful action based on the lie. Let's be clear: no checks are going out to 300-year-old people. Trump is telling this lie in order to sow doubt and create an excuse to make cuts.

This past week, the Trump Administration threatened to eliminate [one in eight employees](#) of the Social Security Administration. The Washington Post reported that this has already caused delays. They reported, "Wait times for basic phone service have grown, in some cases to hours... Delays in reviews of disability claims and hearings before administrative law judges are already starting."

Social Security is the most successful and popular anti-poverty program in the country and, in almost 90 years, has never failed to send out its checks. Trump's lies and his cuts to the Social Security Administration are putting that all at risk.

Constituent Resource Fair

My office will be holding a Constituent Resource Fair on March 13th, from 2-5PM at the Franklin Township Community Senior Center at 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ

Stop by for help with Veterans Housing and Benefits, Tax Preparation Questions, Educational Resources, Health Resources, and more.

This week, I signed onto [a letter](#) led by my colleague John Larson of Connecticut demanding the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to halt any cuts. I also joined as an original cosponsor to two pieces of legislation: one would [prevent the closure of social security field offices](#) that help people with questions, and another to prevent Elon Musk and his DOGE team from [accessing your personal beneficiary data](#).

Each month, over 110,000 Seniors in the 12th District receive the Social Security benefits they've earned over a lifetime of work. I'm fighting to ensure people receive what they've earned and their information is secure.

My Guest for the Joint Session

My guest for the joint session was [Dr. Adam Hamawy](#) of North Brunswick. Dr. Hamawy is a US Army veteran and combat surgeon who has recently traveled to Gaza to administer help to some of the thousands of innocent Palestinians who have been injured in the war there. In 2004, Dr. Hamawy was a member of the team that saved current Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth's life after her helicopter was shot down in Iraq. He's a humanitarian and a symbol of the kind of figure America should be on the world stage - compassionate, courageous, and selfless.

With rising insurance premiums, skyrocketing medical costs, and an administration more concerned with protecting corporate profits than ensuring Americans get the care they need, his voice is crucial in the fight for a fairer healthcare system. I sat down with Dr. Hamawy to talk about his experience in Gaza - and how affordable and accessible healthcare is a basic human right. Watch our conversation here:



Disruptions at Veterans Affairs

Our veterans put everything on the line to serve this country and they deserve more than empty promises and reckless cuts. The Trump administration's plan to [gut the VA by slashing over 80,000 workers](#) is nothing short of a betrayal. This isn't about efficiency - it's about stripping resources from veterans who fought to protect us, leaving them with fewer doctors, longer wait times, and reduced access to care they were promised. All to make room in the budget for tax cuts for billionaire donors and big corporations.

Let's be clear: these cuts will hurt veterans. They will undermine the progress we've made in expanding services, especially for those impacted by toxic burn pits. Veterans don't need political games: they need healthcare, support, and a government that honors their sacrifice.

We will not allow the care and services our veterans rely on to be dismissed. We will fight to protect the VA, to defend those who have defended us, and to ensure we treat our veterans with the dignity they deserve.

The Continued Assault on Medicaid

Last month, I spoke in the Budget Committee and warned them that their proposed cuts could not be done without slashing Medicaid. I offered [an amendment](#) to the budget resolution to specifically protect Medicaid - which nearly 125,000 residents of the 12th District rely on for their health coverage, including 14,000 seniors in nursing homes. The Republicans all voted "no" on my amendment. The Chairman of the Committee and Speaker Johnson tried to deny that their budget would impact Medicaid.

Well, this week, the Congressional Budget Office - the non-partisan numbers guys who both parties rely on for their expertise - [confirmed](#) that, in fact, the GOP Budget goals can not be reached without significant cuts to Medicaid.

There is a long fight ahead on the budget, and I commit to you that I will not stop working to disrupt this planned cut to Medicaid every step of the way.

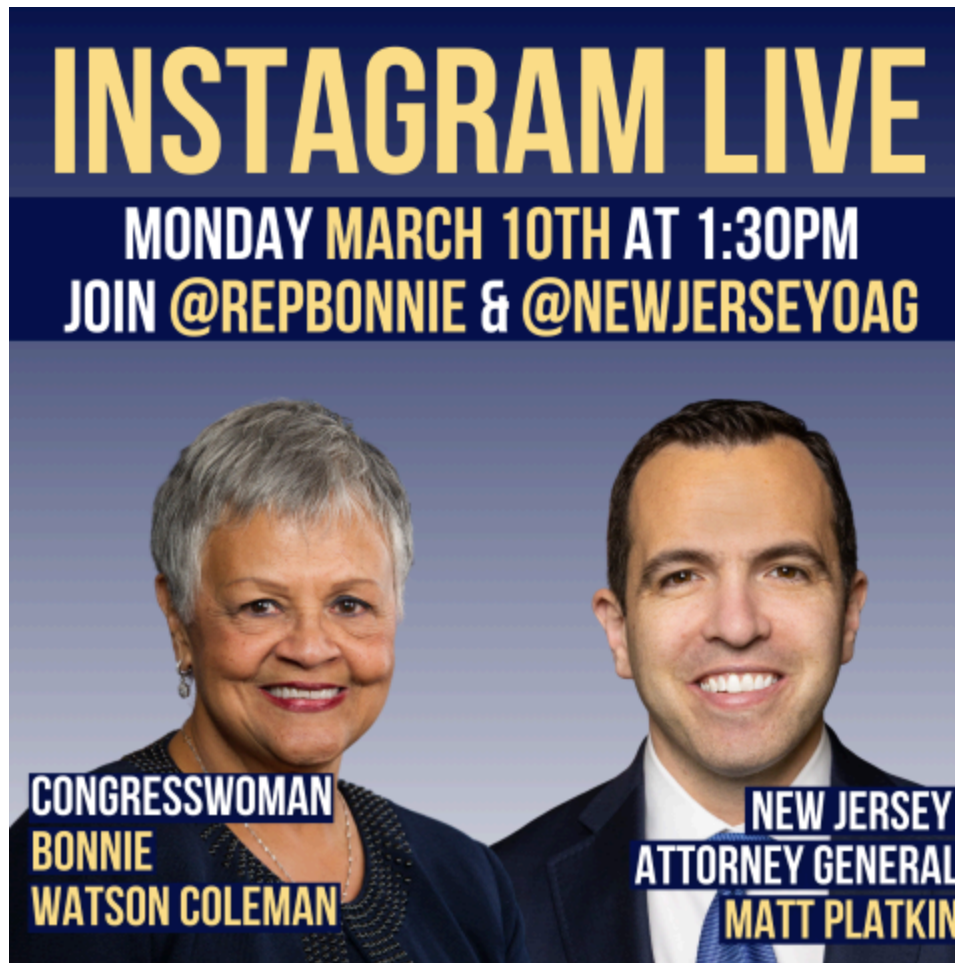
Betrayal of our Allies

Donald Trump's behavior toward President Zelenskyy earlier this week was a disgrace - an open display of disrespect not just to Ukraine but to the countless Americans who stand firmly against Putin's aggression. Instead of standing with an ally fighting for its survival, Trump and JD Vance chose to humiliate and berate Zelenskyy, parroting Kremlin talking points and undermining Ukraine's fight for freedom.

This isn't just embarrassing; it's dangerous. Trump's reckless rhetoric and transactional view of global security endanger American interests and embolden our adversaries. The American people see through this disgraceful display. We deserve leadership that stands against dictators - not against our allies in their time of need.

Upcoming Conversation with New Jersey Attorney General

On Monday at 1:30, New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin and I will be discussing the fight to protect New Jerseyans from Medicaid cuts and other illegal spending freezes. Be sure to tune in by following me on Instagram at [instagram.com/repbonnie](https://www.instagram.com/repbonnie)



Upcoming Events

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CONSTITUENT RESOURCE FAIR

NEED HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY?

STOP BY THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER
FOR HELP WITH:

- VETERANS HOUSING & BENEFITS
- EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
- CENTRAL NJ LEGAL SERVICES
- TAX QUESTIONS
- SENIOR SERVICES
- HEALTH RESOURCES

MARCH 13
Franklin Township
Community Senior Center

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
SERVING NEW JERSEY'S 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2:00PM - 5:00PM
505 DeMott Lane,
Somerset, NJ

Passport Clinic

Need assistance applying for or renewing your passport?

My office will be at the Princeton Municipal Building, Monument Hall on Wednesday, March 19th from 2-6PM to assist you with applying for a new passport, renewing your passport, even getting your passport photo.



3/7/25, 6:42 PM

Rep. Watson Coleman Weekly: Countering Attacks on Social Security

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