

Hi Folks,

After several busy weeks and a few all-nighters down in Washington, I'm headed back up to Jersey. This past week was capped off by the Republicans pushing through their Tax Scam bill in the dead of night - after cutting backroom deals that slash programs like Medicaid and SNAP in order to give billionaires tax breaks. I firmly rejected this cruel bill and proudly voted NO. I also grilled the Secretary of Education when she came before the Appropriations Committee, and reintroduced legislation that would phase out private prison contracts. Here's this week's update:

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GOP Tax Scam

The budget <u>passed</u> on Thursday is the most harmful I have ever seen advanced during my time in Congress. It makes <u>unprecedented cuts</u> to <u>basic needs programs</u>, like food assistance and Medicaid, that support vulnerable populations for the express purpose of paying for tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the <u>very richest Americans</u> and large corporations.

This budget puts the healthcare of <u>nearly 2 million New Jerseyans</u> at risk throughout our state. That includes over <u>120,000 people just in my district</u> -60,000 of whom are children. On top of that, it would <u>increase health insurance premiums</u> for folks who get their coverage through the Affordable Care Act, making healthcare more expensive for over 32,000 New Jerseyans in the 12th District.

And that's just from what we know so far. It's still not totally clear to anyone just how bad this bill

truly is. Republicans have been cutting backroom deals up to the last minute before rushing to vote on a bill that nobody has had time to fully examine.

This entire process has played out behind closed doors and under cover of darkness. They called the Budget Committee to vote on the bill at 11:00 pm on Sunday. They convened the Rules Committee to consider the bill at 1:00 am on Wednesday. And they brought it to the Floor at 2:00 am Thursday before a final vote at 7:00am.

This budget is shameful and cruel. It takes from the most vulnerable to profit the most comfortable. It will make the rich even richer and the poor even poorer. It's exactly the kind of policy we can expect from a government that is beholden not to the people they represent, but to the billionaire donors that bankroll their campaigns.

Secretary of Education Hearing

On Wednesday, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon <u>came before</u> the Appropriations Committee and I asked her why she was making cuts to the Office of Civil Rights while, by her own admission, there was a backlog of civil rights cases. Watch her response here:

Upcoming Events

I will be hosting a Town Hall and a Wellness & Health Resource Clinic on May 27 with special guest, Montgomery Mayor Neena Singh.

This event will be held at the **Montgomery Municipal Center** (100 Community Drive, Skillman).

The resources clinic will be from 4-6pm and the town hall from 6-7pm.



Find Your Polling Place

Tuesday, June 10th is the New Jersey Gubernatorial and General Assembly Primary Election Day. Click here to find your polling location: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search

End For-Profit Prisons Act

Today, I <u>reintroduced my End For-Profit Prisons Act</u>, a bill that would would phase out Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Marshals Service contracts with for-profit prison facilities and would require federal employees to perform core correctional services.

Private Prison companies like GEO Group create a perverse incentive to increase incarceration to increase corporate profits. The use of private prisons erodes the public's faith in the integrity of American sentencing policy, leaving them to wonder if the impetus for lengthy mandatory minimums, or forcibly detaining immigrant children, is an evidence-based solution or just submission to the will of private prison companies donating to campaigns and profiting from imprisonment.

Trump Corruption on Display

Donald Trump is once again treating this presidency like a get-rich-quick scheme, not a public trust as our founders intended. His latest tour through the Persian Gulf had little to do with diplomacy or peace in the region, but instead focused on pandering for personal financial gain.

This administration, with Trump in charge, has turned the highest office in the land into a marketplace: auctioning off influence, selling access, and enriching the President and his family under the cover of executive authority. The recent so-called 'exclusive dinner' for top investors in his meme coin, hosted at one of his private golf clubs, is just the latest scandal in an administration that has had too many to count. It's the kind of corruption we warn other countries about. Now it's happening in our own backyard, orchestrated from the Oval Office.

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I will be hosting a Town Hall and a Wellness & Health Resource Clinic on May 27 joined by Montgomery Mayor Neena Singh. This event will be held at the Montgomery Municipal Center (100 Community Drive, Skillman). The resources clinic will be from 4-6pm and the town hall from 6-7pm.





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