News from Representative Watson Coleman



Dear Neighbor,

It was a busy week despite Congressional Republicans leaving Washington with a looming government shutdown deadline and endless stories of corruption from the Administration. I continue to work for you though; holding the line on protecting healthcare and workers, introducing resolutions aimed at fighting our youth mental health crisis, and preparing for upcoming events in the district.

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Looming Trump Government Shutdown

This week, Donald Trump first agreed to and then backed out of a meeting with Democratic Leadership to avoid a shutdown. Democrats have made clear that while we prefer to fund the government through the regular funding process, they'll vote for a continuing resolution that doesn't include increases to health insurance premiums.

Jamesburg Hybrid Office Hours

My office is hosting a Hybrid Office Hours on Thursday, Nov 6th from 11am - 2pm on Zoom and at the Jamesburg Public Library, 229 Gatzmer Ave, Jamesburg, NJ 08831

You can RSVP here.

Please stop by if you are having issues navigating a federal agency or accessing your benefits. Someone from our team will be happy to assist you!

According to Trump, this was a "<u>ridiculous demand</u>." Instead, he seems to be insisting that Democrats vote for the Republican bill that he couldn't even get all the Republicans to vote for in the Senate.

If Trump gets his way, 32,000 people in the 12th District would see their premiums go up by between \$2500 and \$11,000 for the average family. Twenty-six thousand people will lose health coverage because of Republican cuts to Medicaid (aka NJ FamilyCare) in the Big Billionaire Bailout Law and their plot to gut the Affordable Care Act.

On Thursday, it was reported that the White House is threatening to fire thousands of workers if Trump and Republicans don't get their way. Essentially, Trump and Congressional Republicans are telling the American People, "If Democrats don't help us raise your premiums, we're going to increase unemployment overnight."

This would, of course, be a disaster for the economy. I'm united with my colleagues in defending your healthcare and our overall economy from these antics.

Corruption and Coverup of the Border Czar

Last Saturday, it was reported that Donald Trump's "Border Czar" Tom Homan had been under investigation following a video recording of him accepting \$50,000 in bribes to steer government contracts. When Trump got into office, that investigation was mysteriously closed.

Members of the <u>Homeland Security Committee</u> and <u>Judiciary Committee</u> have called for subpoenas and investigations into these events.

Tom Homan should be fired immediately and charged. FBI Director Kash Patel should be suspended pending impeachment proceedings, and anyone who aided in this coverup should be held accountable. If there is evidence of wrongdoing, the American people deserve to see it.

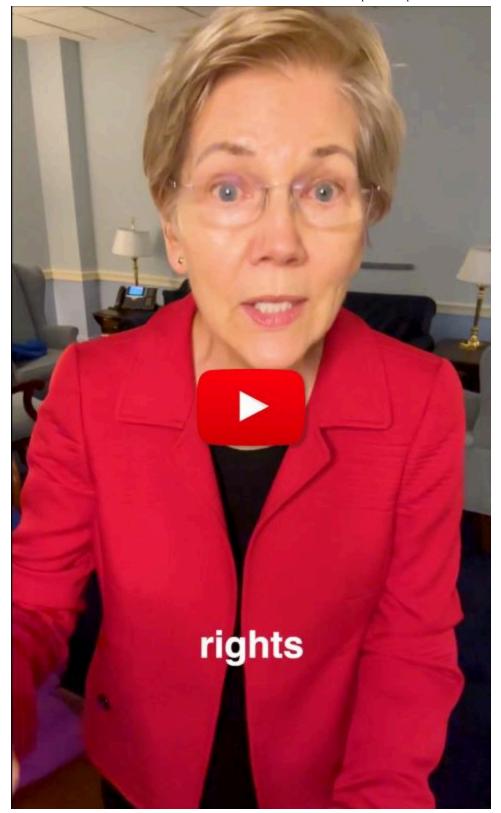
Homan's relationship with GEO Group, which owns Delaney Hall in Newark, should also be thoroughly investigated, and the facility should be closed pending that investigation.

Trump Ending Enforcement of the Fair Housing Act

On Monday, it was reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development would <u>no longer enforce</u> key components of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits racial and other forms of racial discrimination in housing.

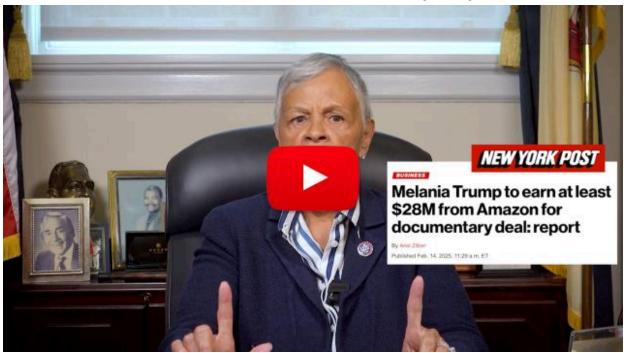
The Trump Administration is siding with landlords, lenders, and real estate agents - protecting their ability to discriminate against you, instead of protecting your ability to secure housing.

<u>Here</u>, Senator Elizabeth Warren lays out how failing to enforce our housing laws puts our most vulnerable residents in danger.



Trump Corruption World Tour - Melania Edition

The Trump Family has been cashing in on Donald's access to power. <u>This week</u> on our <u>Trump Corruption World Tour</u> I discuss why on earth, Amazon might pay almost three times the market rate for a Melania Trump documentary...



Mental Health Resolutions

On Tuesday, I introduced <u>a resolution</u> recognizing the continuing disparities in mental health access and treatment for Black youth.

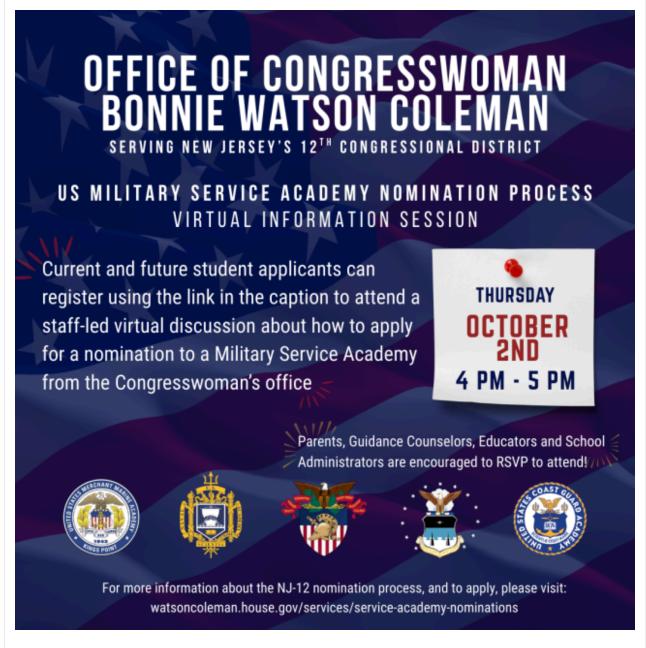
Suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents across this country. Despite the overall youth suicide rate moving toward a downward trend, the suicide rate for Black youth remains higher in most publicly reported data. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, from 2007 to 2023, the suicide rate rose 149% for Black adolescents. One in five Black high school students reported having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

The Trump Administration's war on anything that hints at diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, or at recognizing racial disparities in outcomes, including health outcomes, has stalled progress on closing the racial gap in health. But ignoring the problem does not make it go away; it merely allows it to fester. America's children are in crisis. Every suicide is not just a tragedy, but avoidable. This resolution acknowledges the mental health crisis and the need to implement effective and proven solutions to protect our children.

Also on Tuesday, Congresswoman Young Kim and I introduced a bipartisan resolution to recognize September as National Children's Emotional Wellness Month and raise awareness around children's emotional health. Read more about this here.

Service Academy Nomination Learning Session

Do you know a student in the 12th District who dreams of attending one of our nation's Service Academies? On **Thursday, October 2nd, from 4 PM to 5 PM** staff from my office will be holding an info session where current and future applicants can attend a virtual discussion and have all their questions answered about how to apply for a nomination.



Click here to register.

Meals On Wheels

On Monday, members of my staff had the opportunity to join the local Meals On Wheels of Mercer County as they delivered hot meals to residents of the 12th District.



Each day, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County delivers 400 hot meals to homebound residents across the county. They are an essential part of making New Jersey the best place to live in the country.

If you would like to volunteer with Meals on Wheels, reach out to them at (609) 695-3483.

&Girls Conference

It's that time of year again. My annual &Girls conference is **October 18th**. It's a conference devoted to the empowerment of Black girls in middle and high school.

Black girls continue to prove resilient, despite the disproportionate rates at which they grapple with issues that, if unchecked, could impede their ability to live healthy and productive lives. The &Girls conference will provide girls with self-advocacy tools to help them address the school-to-prison pipeline, discuss how to have healthy relationships, live healthy lifestyles, and help set them on a path of career readiness.



The College of New Jersey
School of Education
2000 Pennington Rd,
Ewing Township, NJ



REGISTER HERE

Program begins: 12:00pm On-site Check-in: 10:30am

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

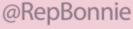
202-225-5801 bwcgirlsconference@gmail.com

JOIN THE CONVERSATION









#AndGirlsConference2025



Black, Beautiful, & Brilliant: My Mind, My Voice



WELCOME REMARKS CONGRESSWOMAN BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

BREAKOUT SESSION

Black, Beautiful, & Brilliant: My Mind, My Voice

Prioritize our mental health, learn tips to advocate for ourselves, understand and overcome the stigma surrounding therapy & mental health care in the Black community

PANEL DISCUSSION

Encouraging Self-Advocacy

Speaking up for our mental health needs, dismantling stereotypes, and expressing our emotions confidently



Resources for empowerment, normalizing mental health conversations in our communities, role of caregivers and educators in creating emotional safety

Systems-Level Change

Systemic changes needed to support Black girls' mental health, increasing cultural competency among therapists & counselors

- LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED --

Registration is closes October 6th. Register here.

Upcoming Voter Registration Deadline

Elections for Governor, State Assembly, and several local elections are coming up on Tuesday, November 4th.



The deadline to register in New Jersey is **October 14th** but don't wait. You can register to vote online. It only takes a few minutes.

Click here.

Our American Story

As part of America's 250th Anniversary celebration, I'm helping to collect the untold stories of great Americans.

Our American Story is an oral and visual storytelling project aimed at collecting and preserving our nation's stories. This is your opportunity to nominate a living person – a friend, family member, neighbor, or community leader – whose story you think needs to be shared and preserved.

It could be someone in your life whose story resonates with you or has inspired you, but maybe isn't widely known. It could be someone who has made a difference in your community.



Conversations will be recorded and archived, and a portion will be preserved at the Library of Congress, to cultivate a permanent record of the collective American story.

Click here to nominate someone.



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