



Dear neighbor,

This week, I signed onto a discharge petition to bring a bill to the House Floor which would compel the release of the Epstein Files; we got a concerning jobs report as the President's policies begin to be felt throughout the economy; Republicans tried and failed to censure my friend and colleague, LaMonica McIver for doing her job; we marked up a government funding bill in the Appropriations Committee; we announced the return of our annual &Girls conference; I attended a Labor Day event in New Jersey; and we kicked off National Suicide Prevention Month. More from this week, below:

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Epstein Discharge Petition

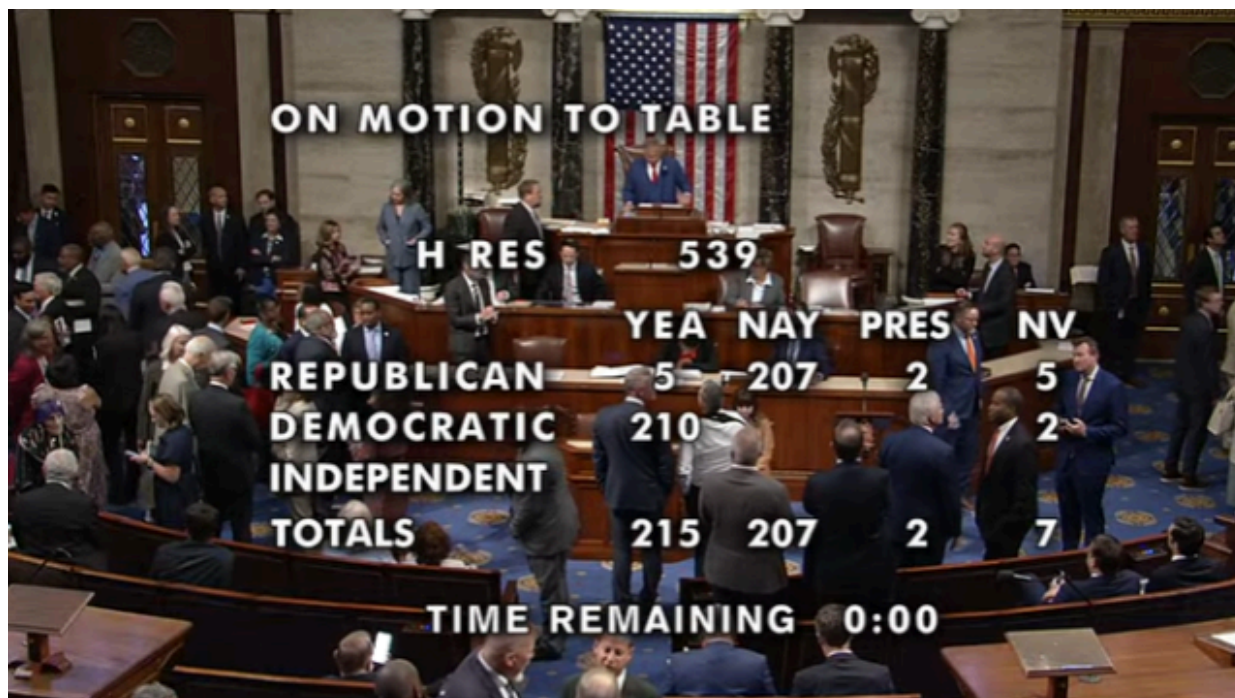
This week, I signed onto the [bipartisan discharge petition](#) to force the release of the Epstein files. (A discharge petition forces the Speaker of the House to hold a vote, even if he doesn't want to.)

Meanwhile, [video has emerged](#) of a DOJ official saying that they're planning to redact the names of Republicans who appear in the Epstein Files and that convicted sex trafficker and Epstein associate Gislaine Maxwell has been getting cushy treatment in return for her silence.

[Protecting and covering up](#) sex traffickers and criminal pedophiles is morally bankrupt, no matter who they are or how powerful. I encourage all my colleagues, including my fellow New Jersey Congressmen [Tom Kean, Jr.](#), [Jeff Van Drew](#), and [Chris Smith](#), to sign the petition and continue the process of getting justice for the victims.

Failed Censure of Rep. McIver

This week, Republican Clay Higgins of Louisiana tried and failed to censure my friend and colleague, Congresswoman LaMonica McIver, on the House Floor.



Why was this attempt made? Because LaMonica, Congressman Rob Menendez, Jr., and I sought to hold this administration accountable for egregious conditions at an immigrant detention facility in Newark earlier this year.

It's a shame that this measure was even brought up to begin with. I was there that day. I didn't hear about it from a friend. I didn't read about it in the paper. I didn't watch it on TV. I was there. I know what I saw. LaMonica did absolutely nothing wrong.

The censure attempt was political theater, nothing more. I'm glad Congress blocked the measure, and I hope the House can quickly turn to more pressing issues facing the American people.

Disappointing Jobs Report

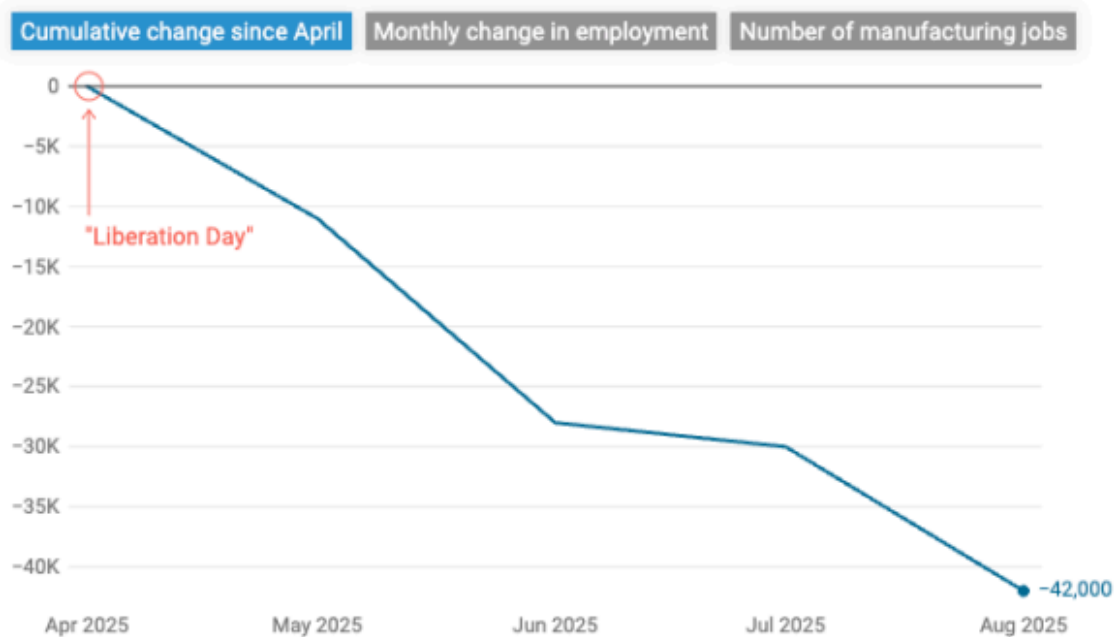
Today's jobs report was both disappointing and concerning. Fewer than one-third of the jobs economists expected were created last month. [Forty-two thousand jobs in manufacturing have disappeared](#) since Trump announced tariffs.



FIGURE 1

The manufacturing sector has lost 42,000 jobs since April 2025

Cumulative change in employment, 2025



Hover or click to see values.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "All employees, thousands, manufacturing, seasonally adjusted," (last accessed September 2025).

Chart: Center for American Progress

All this while costs remain high and [energy prices are rising](#). But struggling Americans looking for a job [don't exist according to the Trump Administration](#).

The American people need an economic plan that centers on American workers, not CEOs and Wall Street investors.

Appropriations Committee Update

On Tuesday, I spoke at the Appropriations Committee hearing against Republicans' elimination of funding for domestic HIV prevention and treatment programs. They also slashed funding for the Job Corps and other job training programs, and cut over \$1.7 billion from the CDC.



At the Financial Services markup, I laid out how the Republican bill benefits the ultra-wealthy while stripping protections for consumers, undermining election security, and weakening D.C.'s limited autonomy.

&Girls Conference is Back!

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.



**BONNIE
WATSON COLEMAN**

SENIOR NEW JERSEY STATE CONGRESSWOMAN, DISTRICT 1

*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**

@RepBonnie
#AndGirlsConference2025


10.18.2025

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

— LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED —

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

●

Support & Strategies
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 open until October 6th. Register [here](#).

Labor Day



On Labor Day, I joined people gathered in Trenton as we honored the legacy and bravery of workers throughout history who fought for dignity on the job, including the 8-hour workday and safer working conditions and demanded that the peoples' representatives stand up for working-class Americans and not the wealthy, well-connected, and special interests.

National Suicide Prevention Month

September marks Suicide Prevention Month - and knowing what risk factors and warning signs to look out for can save lives. We cannot ignore the devastating impact the One Big Ugly Bill will have on our already strained mental healthcare system.

The Trump admin has cut \$1 Trillion from Medicaid, the biggest funder of mental healthcare, and \$1 billion from school mental health programs.

I've introduced the Youth Mental Health Research Act and Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act, and will be introducing legislation that continues to address the growing need for health-centered responses for mental health related emergencies later this fall.

Mental health care is health care, and I remain committed to doing whatever I can to restore access to these life-saving resources. This month, check in on your friends, family, and neighbors - and remember to take care of your mental health just like you would your physical health.

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress, has questions or just needs support, the 988 Lifeline is available 24/7 to call, text, or chat. Learn more at [988Lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)

Casework Testimonials

"Responsiveness and caring towards the minute details" - **Suman from Old Bridge**



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