

**Statement from Amy Kennedy Announcing  
Exploratory Committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional Seat of New Jersey**

**Brigantine, NJ** – December 16, 2019 – My husband, Patrick J. Kennedy, and I have supported Congressman Jeff Van Drew in the past, but he has clearly lost his way. Today I am launching an exploratory committee to consider a run for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of New Jersey.

As a mother of five and a former public school teacher for thirteen years, running for office was not in my life plan, but Congressman Van Drew's recent actions, including switching parties, proves that he is no longer putting the needs of the district first.

Our nation is in crisis. Our political system is in crisis. Our environment is in crisis. We have serious unaddressed needs in our schools and in our mental health and addiction system. Our economy, though strong, is not meeting the needs of the underserved and middle class. We need real leadership to overcome these challenges. I have worked to fulfill my civic duty by serving on the volunteer Board of Directors for Mental Health America and as the Education Director of The Kennedy Forum, but as a third-generation Atlantic County resident, I'm compelled to explore if my community wants me to do more by serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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