



MESSAGING GUIDANCE: Supporting Congressman Jamaal Bowman After Accidental Fire Alarm

Please reach out to [REDACTED] for any specific messaging questions.

What Happened:

On his way to votes today, Congressman Jamaal Bowman was trying to leave the Cannon House Office Building through the exit he regularly uses for votes. He was rushing to the House floor to prevent himself from missing a vote, and due to confusing signage and an honest mistake, he pulled the alarm in an attempt to open the door. He was not attempting to delay the vote that he intended to vote yes on, and was simply just trying to rush to the Capitol. Henceforth, MAGA Republicans have used this as an opportunity to distract from their attempt to shut the government down and to minimize January 6th insurrectionists.

What the Congressman has said:

“I was just trying to get to my vote. The door that’s usually open wasn’t open..I didn’t mean to cause confusion. I didn’t know it was going to trip the whole building. I thought it would help me open the door.”

You can find his full statement [here](#). You can also find a tweeted statement [here](#).

Suggested Talking Points:

- It is an extreme reach on the part of MAGA Republicans to assert that Rep Bowman intended to harm or destruct anyone or thing. The exact opposite is true: he was trying to do his job.
- Look, if you’ve been in the Capitol complex on a weekend you’d know there’s only one or two ways to get in and out and it causes confusion for staffers and members alike, but because of last minute votes caused by Republican incompetence and surprise bill drop not all exits were staffed like usual and the signage made it even more confusing.
- Especially when you’re in a rush after Republicans drop the bill text 15 minutes before the vote and the signage on the doors is unnecessarily confusing.

- It's clear my colleague Congressman Bowman was simply rushing to the floor to cast his vote to prevent a shutdown and support working class families.
- Voting doesn't occur in the Cannon House Office Building, it only occurs in the Capitol. The alarm going off didn't interrupt our business on the floor today in the slightest.
- House Republicans are obviously trying to distract from the fact they cannot govern and that they nearly shut down the federal government for no reason.
- I believe Congressman Bowman when he says this was an accident. Republicans need to instead focus their energy on the Nazi members of their party before anything else.
- There are multiple insurrectionist supporters in Congress and more who supported a coup and support Trump's Big Lie. That's what they should be focused on. Instead their focus on Rep. Bowman is an attempt to minimize January 6th.
- I know that we're focused on preventing a government shutdown and working towards ensuring everyone has childcare, food on the table, and the ability to thrive.

If you want to Quote Tweet

- <https://x.com/RepSantosNY03/status/1708205230096060781?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/reptroynehls/status/1708191705529307145?s=46>
- <https://twitter.com/repmalliotakis/status/1708186525052088443?s=46>
- <https://twitter.com/repthomasmassie/status/1708275774824833328?s=46>
- Great article to pull from
<https://www.mediamatters.org/fox-news/laughable-right-wing-effort-compare-rep-bowman-january-6-insurrectionists>