

U.S. Sen. Johnson: Statement on committee oversight plans for CARES Act

Posted on Monday, Apr 20, 2020

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WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, released the following statement after Majority Leader McConnell (R-Ky.) announced that Sen. Crapo (R-Idaho) will coordinate Senate oversight of the CARES Act.

“I look forward to working with Senator Crapo and the other committee chairmen to coordinate the Senate’s work overseeing the CARES Act. The majority leader’s emphasis on ‘appropriate, objective and nonpartisan oversight’ is wholly consistent with the approach our committee will continue to take to provide oversight of key issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and our nation’s response.

“The tragedy of the current pandemic is nobody’s fault. Yet everyone wishes our country had been better prepared. Since the CARES Act’s passage, our committee has been researching and laying the foundation for oversight over: (1) the readiness of our strategic national stockpile; (2) vulnerabilities in our vital supply chain; (3) the use and accuracy of scientific models used for prediction and driving our response to COVID-19; (4) the origins of COVID-19; and (5) the role the World Health Organization played. Our committee’s focus will be on conducting methodical, nonpartisan oversight of these issues to understand what happened and what changes should be made to ensure we are better prepared in the future.”