

WisDems: Ahead of Pence visit, U.S. Sen. Baldwin, ER doctor, Wisconsinite with pre-existing conditions blast administration for failed response to COVID-19

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(WISCONSIN) — In response to Mike Pence’s visit to the state, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, ER Doctor and candidate for Wisconsin’s 67th State Assembly District Chris Kapsner, and Bob Andruszkiewicz, who has pre-existing conditions, called out the Donald Trump and Mike Pence for their failed response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to countless Wisconsin jobs lost and small businesses shuttered. They also discussed the Trump administration’s continued attacks on protections for pre-existing conditions, while still having no real plan to confront the pandemic. For the over 100,000 Wisconsinites who have tested positive for COVID-19, and the economic fallout that it has caused, Trump and Pence’s gross mismanagement has made this crisis far worse than it needed to be.

[Watch the full event here or read excerpts of what the speakers said below.](#)

US Senator Tammy Baldwin: “What has been a continuous concern for Wisconsinites is their ability to get quality and affordable health care, as well as their ability to pay for their prescription drugs... Testing positive for COVID-19 is a pre-existing condition. As is asthma, diabetes, cancer, and pregnancy. If Donald Trump and Mike Pence get their way, these people, and the tens of millions of others across the country with pre-existing conditions, could lose their care. They could go bankrupt trying to pay their medical bills, their rent, and putting food on

their family's table... Still today, we see these attacks continue,, in the midst of a pandemic that was turned into a full blown crisis by Trump and his inability to prepare for or respond to the virus. Joe Biden was on the frontlines of passing the ACA, and I know with him as our next president he will build on the progress we've made — that's something Wisconsinites can count on."

Chris Kapsner: "Without this leadership here we are floundering. We've been at this for 9 months both on a state level and a federal level. At this moment we're still struggling with aggressive testing... The other big issue is PPE... Sadly it's because of a lack of leadership on a federal level... We're watching the Republican party tear apart the Affordable Care Act. For ten years now they've been talking about repealing and replacing- all they want to do is take it down, they have nothing to replace it with... all these things are going to disappear with the aggressive assault that the Republican party is undertaking both on a federal level and in the state of Wisconsin on our health care system...How can the most powerful country in the world not be able to handle this. You cannot overstate how this is an abject failure of leadership on a spectacular scale... We need to fire everyone who has ignored the real problems and the suffering of the people of this state and this country."

Bob Andruszkiewicz: "As one of the many millions of Americans, but also one of the 2.4 million Wisconsinites living with pre-existing conditions, I know what this feels like going through COVID... To have a strong America, you need strong and healthy Americans, and that's why we need to keep the ACA... Living with these medical conditions is hard enough to do everything that I need to do and not have to worry about health care coverage... For the last four years, Trump has relentlessly tried to repeal protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and he and the Republicans continue to do so, even in the middle of a pandemic... We need to make sure that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris win this election and save the Affordable Care Act and save Americans."