

American Bridge 21st Century: Ron Johnson helps kill COVID recovery funding for restaurants and small business

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Despite pleas from [Wisconsin restaurant and small business owners](#), **Wisconsin U.S. Senator Ron Johnson** and Senate Republicans today [blocked legislation to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#) — **a vital resource that would help Badger State restaurants struggling to recover from the pandemic.**

For months, small business owners from across Wisconsin have lobbied Senate Republicans and Ron Johnson to take up a relief bill that “[would have funded the 265,000 restaurants and bar operators](#)” that were initially denied funding. **But on Thursday, thanks to the votes of 48 Republicans, they saw their work go up in smoke.**

During Johnson’s time in office, he has time and time again opposed Democratic efforts to lower costs for working families and instead, **defended the multimillion-dollar tax giveaway he secured for himself and the billionaire megadonors [who are funding his 2022 reelection](#) campaign.**

Johnson has repeatedly refused to help Wisconsinites over the past year:

- Johnson told **Wisconsin parents he won’t [lower](#) child care costs.**
- Johnson told **Wisconsin workers** he “wouldn’t insert [him]self” to protect and secure [1,000 Wisconsin jobs](#). Because in his words “it’s not like we don’t have

enough jobs here in Wisconsin.” He was later [called out](#) by UAW workers who slammed Johnson and made clear the Senator isn’t “[well informed on the situation](#).”

- Johnson failed **Wisconsin’s dairy industry** by opposing [\\$20 million in pandemic rescue funds](#) for the industry, under the American Rescue Plan.
- And now, Johnson has today taken yet another vote **contrary to the interests and wishes of Wisconsin small business owners**, killing a grassroots small business movement that would ensure hundreds of Wisconsin restaurants have the resources they need to keep their doors open.