

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson Sells Stocks for Profit and Leaves Wisconsin Families to Fend for Themselves

Milwaukee, Wisconsin- Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson states that he was not involved in insider trading when he sold large quantities of shares in his family's company, just before the market crashed. The company is a major supplier of a material used in packaging of medical devices.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, including the Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation (Chairman); the Subcommittee East Asia, The Pacific, And International Cybersecurity Policy; and the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, Senator Johnson has most certainly been briefed on the severity of the Coronavirus and its consequences in places like China and Italy.

So, while in other parts of the world there were mounting cases of people stricken with the disease, situations where doctors were forced to decide which people would be put on ventilators and which people would simply receive "comfort measures" while they died, Senator Ron Johnson was making a profit.

Instead of asking for U.S. manufacturers to begin producing more ventilators and masks, or calling for social distancing, Senator Johnson downplayed the potential fatalities that might occur, saying it's "1-3.4% of the population."

This past week, Senator Ron Johnson and all Republican members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation voted against a bipartisan paid leave bill for Wisconsin families. Meanwhile, 29,000 Wisconsinites have already applied for unemployment due to loss of a job related to the Coronavirus.

"In these times of uncertainty, the American people look to their elected leaders to act with the highest levels of integrity and to do their utmost to protect the well-being of the people," said Pam Fendt, President of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. "It is absolutely appalling that Senator Ron Johnson may have used insider information to enrich his family's fortune, leaving Wisconsin families to fend for themselves."

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