

CLAIM	PUSHBACK
<p>HONL: “I served with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq, and ultimately I was medically discharge from the army.”</p> <p>VISUAL: “Ryan Honl. Tomah, Wisconsin.”</p> <p>HONL: “So I went to work for the VA, and within a few days I’m seeing stuff I’m uncomfortable with. Things have been falsified there for so many years and I couldn’t take it anymore. And I blew the whistle.”</p>	<p><b>HONL BLEW THE WHISTLE TO SENATOR JOHNSON’S OFFICE, WHO FAILED TO ACT ON THE TRAGEDIES AT THE TOMAH VA</b></p> <p><b>Former Tomah Employee Acted as Whistle-Blower, Tried to Get Johnson and Other WI Lawmakers to Intervene.</b> As reported by the Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, “Ryan Honl, a former Tomah employee who has acted as a whistle-blower, called for an independent investigation of the facility. For months, Honl had tried to get three Wisconsin lawmakers — U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and U.S. Rep. Ron Kind — to intervene.” [Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, <a href="#">1/31/15</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Whistleblower Contacted Office of Sen. Ron Johnson About Problems at VA Medical Center.</b> As reported by WKOW, “Honl says he begged Sen. Baldwin’s office to release the report and also contacted the offices of Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) and Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI-3) about it as well. He says they all failed him, but also blames the White House for appointing a VA inspector general who knew about problems and did nothing.” [WKOW, <a href="#">1/30/15</a>]</li> <li>• <b>Whistleblower Said He Forwarded Information to Johnson and Baldwin, To Their Staffs.</b> As reported by WISN, “He started in mid-August 2014, and then, just six weeks into the job, he filed for whistleblower protection, saying he was asked to falsify attendance records for a doctor. In October, a total of eight weeks into the job, he resigned, citing harassment. That’s when other staffers came to him with allegations patients were being doped up on opiates. ‘I started getting calls from, doctors, nurses, from other administrators, from pharmacists basically saying, ‘Thanks for blowing the whistle, and here’s a bunch of information I have to share with you,’ Honl said. ‘I forwarded it to the elected officials, well Baldwin and Johnson who were listening to me, to their staffers. But it was serious stuff, right? I just wanted someone to look at it.’ But then, after a period of no communication from the Wisconsin senators, Honl said he gave up in November.” [WISN, <a href="#">1/30/15</a>]</li> </ul> <p><b>Whistleblower Said He Also Reached Out to Johnson And Kind But Got Little Response Until Media Picked Up Issue.</b> As reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, “Ron Johnson Ron Kind Honl noted that he also reached out to U.S. Sen. , a Republican, and U.S. Rep. , a Democrat, but got little response until the media picked up on the issue in early January. Since then, he said, federal lawmakers have been very responsive to his concerns. ‘They were caught with their pants down,’ Honl said.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/26/15]</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 2014: WHISTLEBLOWER SENT COMPLAINT TO JOHNSON’S OFFICE NOTING HIS “GRAVE CONCERNS” ABOUT “PATIENT HEALTH AND SAFETY” AT TOMAH</b></p> <p><b>Late September 2014: Whistleblower Sent Complaint To Johnson Noting His “Grave Concerns” About “Patient Health And Safety” At Tomah VA.</b> As reported by Gannett, “The Tomah whistleblower, Ryan Honl, sent a complaint to Johnson, as he did the others, in late September 2014. In it, he noted that he had ‘grave concerns’ about ‘patient health and safety’ at the Tomah VA.” [Gannett, “Who Knew What When: Tomah VA,” <a href="#">2/24/15</a>]</p> <p><b>BUT WHISTLEBLOWER HONL NEVER HEARD BACK AFTER</b></p>

	<p><b>HE HAD CONTACTED OFFICE</b></p> <p><b>Whistleblower Said He Never Heard Back After Contacting Johnson’s Office.</b> As reported by the Wisconsin State Journal, “[Whistleblower and former VA employee] Honl said he never heard back after contacting Johnson’s office.” [Wisconsin State Journal, 1/16/15]</p>
<p>NEWS FOOTAGE: “A cover-up after the death of three patients at a VA hospital.”</p> <p>VISUAL: “Inspector General faults Tomah VA in veteran death. WSAW, 8/7/15”</p>	<p><b>JOHNSON HAD THREE YEARS TO TAKE ACTION ON THE TOMAH VA BEFORE JASON SIMCAKOSKI’S TRAGIC DEATH</b></p> <p><b>January 2011 HEADLINE: Johnson Sworn In As Wisconsin’s Newest Senator.</b> [Associated Press, <a href="#">1/5/11</a>]</p> <p><b>August 2014: Jason Simcakoski Died At The Tomah VA From “Mixed Drug Toxicity.”</b> “A Veterans Affairs Department investigation into the death of a former Marine at the Tomah, Wisconsin, VA Medical Center found the staff failed to properly prescribe medications and blundered the medical response when the veteran was found unresponsive in his bed. Jason Simcakoski died Aug. 30, 2014, in the hospital’s short-stay mental health unit from ‘mixed drug toxicity,’ having taken 13 prescribed medications, including several that cause respiratory depression, in a 24-hour period.” [Military Times, <a href="#">8/19/15</a>]</p>
<p>NEWS FOOTAGE: “The Tomah VA prescribed excessive doses of opioid pain killers.”</p> <p>NEWS FOOTAGE: “The practice wasn’t stopped, and veterans paid the price.” [0:32]</p>	<p><b>JOHNSON’S OFFICE CLAIMED THEY TOOK ACTION BY REFERRING TOMAH COMPLAINTS TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT...</b></p> <p><b>Johnson Spokeswoman Said Johnson’s Staff Received Reports of Problems, Aides Referred Matter to Senate Subcommittee on Federal Contracting Oversight.</b> As reported by the LaCrosse Tribune, “Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., praised the CIR for bringing the issues to light. A spokeswoman said when Johnson’s staff received reports of problems at the Tomah VA, aides referred the matter to the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Contracting Oversight, of which he was the ranking member.” [LaCrosse Tribune, <a href="#">1/16/15</a>]</p> <p><b>Report: Johnson Received Complaint About Tomah VA Narcotics Prescriptions Last Fall, Opened Constituent Case File And Shared With Senate Committee “Where It Sat.”</b> As reported by Gannett, “Back in 2011, Democratic Rep. Ron Kind of La Crosse forwarded a whistleblower complaint about Tomah narcotics prescriptions to the inspector general but didn’t follow up to see what happened. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, received a complaint last fall, opened a constituent case file on it and shared it with a Senate committee, where it sat.” [Gannett, <a href="#">2/24/15</a>]</p> <p><b>...BUT “THE COMPLAINTS SIMPLY CHANGED HANDS FROM ONE JOHNSON AIDE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF” LIKE “A CONGRESSIONAL BLACK HOLE”</b></p> <p><b>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: “The Complaints Simply Changed Hands From One Johnson Aide To Other Members Of His Staff” Which “Proved The Equivalent Of A Congressional Black Hole.”</b> “In October, Mark Nielsen — Johnson’s veterans services caseworker — responded to Honl by suggesting he was taking action. [...] What was not clear in any of those accounts was that the complaints simply changed hands from one Johnson aide to other members of his staff. Schnell declined to name the staffers, citing privacy concerns. Schnell said there was nothing disingenuous about her earlier remarks. The complaints did end up with staffers assigned to the oversight subcommittee, meaning Honl’s concerns were, in fact, relayed to the panel. Even if that proved</p>

	<p>the equivalent of a congressional black hole.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, <a href="#">3/9/15</a>]</p> <p><b>JOHNSON AND HIS STAFF BLAMED FAILURE TO ACT ON SENATE RECESS AND STAFF TURNOVER DURING LAME DUCK SESSION...</b></p> <p><b>Johnson Claimed Complaints Had Been Received During Lame-Duck Session When There Was High Staff Turnover In The Office.</b> “The first-term senator explained that the complaints had been received during a lame-duck session, when Capitol Hill was distracted by the 2014 election cycle and said there was high turnover in the office. Two of the staffers on the email chain are no longer with the office. Johnson also said his office had been staffing up, hiring more than 20 individuals to support him as he prepared to head the committee.” [Roll Call, <a href="#">3/11/15</a>]</p> <p><b>Johnson’s Policy Advisor Blamed The Tomah VA Failure On Senate Recess And The Changing Of Committee Control After Republicans Took Control Of The Senate In November.</b> “Patrick McIlheran, a policy adviser for Johnson, noted the complaints arrived while the Senate was in recess and shortly before the general election. The Senate flipped from Democratic to Republican control in November.” [Journal-Sentinel, <a href="#">3/9/15</a>]</p> <p><b>...AND EVEN CLAIMED “JOB INTERVIEWS AND STUFF” SLOWED THEIR RESPONSE</b></p> <p><b>Headline: Sen. Johnson: ‘Job Interviews And Stuff’ Slowed Response To Whistleblower Report</b> [Talking Points Memo, <a href="#">3/16/15</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Johnson: “There’s A High Level Of Churn Within Offices. Actually, Two Of These People On These Email Chains Voluntarily Left For Other Opportunities, Other Offices.”</b> “Johnson made the comments in a radio interview on the Jerry Bader Show. ‘You have to understand what happens here, in between Congresses. There’s a high level of churn within offices. Actually, two of these people on these email chains voluntarily left for other opportunities, other offices. And so, you’ve got to understand the reality of the situation,’ Johnson said.” [Jerry Bader Show, WTAQ, 3/11/15; Talking Points Memo, <a href="#">3/16/15</a>] (AUDIO)</li><li>• <b>Johnson Blamed His Staff’s Failures On Election Season And Senate Recess During A Lame Duck Session In Addition To His Staff “Doing Job Interviews And Stuff.”</b> JOHNSON: ‘So, sure, in a perfect world, had this not occurred during an election cycle, when we were in recess, during the lame duck session, when there’s an awful lot of turnover in offices, when people maybe are looking at, you know, doing job interviews and stuff,’ Johnson continued. ‘In a perfect world, sure, they would have been able to – without having the report, and not, as a result, understanding the severity of the situation – might have divined that hey this is something important that we ought to bring to Senator Johnson’s attention.’” [Jerry Bader Show, WTAQ, 3/11/15; Talking Points Memo, <a href="#">3/16/15</a>] (AUDIO)</li></ul>
<p>HONL: I found out that Russ Feingold got a memo in 2009 that outlined veteran harm and nothing was done. Russ Feingold ignored veterans’ concerns while veterans were dying at the facility.</p> <p>VISUAL: “Report says...Feingold...told about Tomah VA Problems in 2009. WSAU, 10/23/15”</p>	<p><b>THE ONLY EVIDENCE BACKING UP THIS CLAIM WAS CHARACTERIZED AS AN “ERROR”</b></p> <p><b>Lin Ellinghuysen Characterized The Note That At The Top Of Her Memo That Marked It As Delivered To Several Congressional Offices As An “Error.”</b> “Ellinghuysen told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that she made an error in marking the memo as being hand-delivered to the Democratic lawmakers. She said she made an assumption, but that the deliveries did not</p>

occur. Ellinghuysen said the print ad was 'not truthful.'" [[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), [1/20/16](#)]

## **MEMO WRITER LIN ELLINGHUYSEN ASKED ANOTHER AFGE REPRESENTATIVE TO DELIVER HER MEMO ON TOMAH**

### **Ellinghuysen Asked Another Local AFGE Representative, Ben Balkum, To Deliver The Memo She Had Written When He Was In Washington.**

"Ellinghuysen addressed the memo to Ben Balkum, president of another local AFGE chapter. In it, she asked that he share its contents with Wisconsin's congressional delegation during an upcoming trip he was taking to Washington." [[Post Crescent](#), [10/16/15](#)]

## **ELLINGHUYSEN HAD NO CONFIRMATION THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED**

**Ellinghuysen Herself Admitted That She Had No Confirmation That The Letter Was Delivered.** "And Ellinghuysen now says she has no proof it was delivered. 'We assumed the documents had been delivered to several members of the Wisconsin delegation at that time, but we can't confirm that they actually made it to those offices,' she said, adding that she had 'mistakenly operated on that assumption.'" [[Post Crescent](#), [10/16/15](#)]

## **THERE IS NO PROOF THAT THE MEMO WAS EVER DELIVERED**

**Ellinghuysen's Memo Was Her Own Copy That She Gave To The Local Sheriff For A Police Report With A Handwritten Note At The Top Saying It Was Delivered To Kind, Obey, And Feingold.** "Three months later, Dr. Christopher Kirkpatrick, the Tomah clinical psychologist who had been disciplined, was fired and then committed suicide. Ellinghuysen headed to the local sheriff's office, armed with copies of her correspondence about the issues at Tomah, including her memo to Balkum and another she had written in 2008 about Houlihan treating staff poorly and writing prescriptions without seeing patients. She entered those memos into the official police report. On the 2008 memo, she had written 'one of several handouts given to reps. For Congressman Kind, Sens. Feingold and (former senator Herb) Kohl.' On the April 2009 memo, she had written, 'Hand-delivered to: Congressman Kind, Congressman Obey, Senator Feingold.'" [[Post Crescent](#), [10/16/15](#)]

### **Post Crescent: It Is Unclear When Lin Ellinghuysen Made The Handwritten Notes That Certain Memos Were Delivered To Members Of Congress.**

"[Ellinghuysen] entered those memos into the official police report. On the 2008 memo, she had written 'one of several handouts given to reps. For Congressman Kind, Sens. Feingold and (former senator Herb) Kohl.' On the April 2009 memo, she had written, 'Hand-delivered to: Congressman Kind, Congressman Obey, Senator Feingold.' It's unclear when she made the notes. She declined last week to answer questions about them." [[Post Crescent](#), [10/16/15](#)]

## **THE EARLIEST COMPLAINT CITED BY THE VA WAS MADE IN 2011**

**March 2011: OIG Received The First Complaint Regarding Problems Relating To Prescribing Practices At The Tomah VAMC.** "VA OIG records show that the first complaint we received regarding problems relating to prescribing practices at the Tomah VAMC was in March 2011." [Department of Veterans Affairs White Paper, [6/18/15](#)]

**The Earliest Complaint Cited By The VA Was A Complaint In March 2011.**

	<p>“The various allegations were compiled from: A complaint made in March 2011 by a facility [redacted] (with a corresponding VISN response in June 2011 and a September 2011 report from the VISN Chief Medical Officer on remedial actions taken.)” [Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Inspector General, <a href="#">3/12/14</a>]</p> <p><b>IN ADDITION TO FEINGOLD, CONGRESSMEN KIND AND OBEY AND SENATOR KOHL HAD NO EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE 2009 MEMO</b></p> <p><b>Feingold, Kind, And Obey Had No Evidence Of Receiving The 2009 Memo.</b>  “Obey and representatives of Kind and Feingold say they have no recollection or record of receiving the 2009 memo, although for former members, such incoming correspondence would have been destroyed when they left office, Obey said.” [Post Crescent, <a href="#">10/16/15</a>]</p>
<p>HONL: All those veterans who’ve come back wounded, and they die at the hands of politicians who look the other way. I just want the voters to know the real story.</p>	<p><b>MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL EDITORIAL: JOHNSON OWES CONSTITUENTS AND VETERANS BETTER SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>EDITORIAL: Ron Johnson Owes Constituents And Veterans Better Service</b>  [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Editorial, <a href="#">3/10/15</a>]</p> <p><b>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Editorial Board On Johnson’s Inaction At Tomah VA: “There Should Be Some Kind Of Consequences, As Well As A Commitment To Providing Better Service. Johnson Owes His Constituents – And Veterans – At Least That.”</b> “We, and others, have been critical of Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s office in failing to follow up aggressively on allegations of overprescriptions and other abuses at the Tomah VA Medical Center. But her office was not alone, as we’ve mentioned, and it does seem that others also could have done more. [...] For similar sloppy staff work in Baldwin’s office, a staffer lost her job. We’re not saying anyone necessarily should be fired in Johnson’s office, but it does seem there should be some kind of consequences, as well as a commitment to providing better service. Johnson owes his constituents – and veterans – at least that.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Editorial, <a href="#">3/10/15</a>]</p> <p><b>WISCONSIN EDITORIAL: INVESTIGATION NEEDS TO LOOK AT WHETHER JOHNSON AND OTHERS WERE INFORMED ABOUT ACCUSATIONS AT TOMAH</b></p> <p><b>EDITORIAL: Investigation Needs to Look At Whether Sen. Ron Johnson And Rep. Ron Kind Were Informed About Accusations At Tomah.</b> As reported by Green Bay Press-Gazette, “As we go forward, veterans and their families will have to rely on the VA to investigative the Tomah VA, but any subsequent investigation also needs to look at our elected officials and their responses, including whether Rep. Kind, D-La Crosse, whose congressional district includes Tomah, and U.S. Sen Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, were informed of the accusations. Baldwin needs to take a hard look at her response.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/1/15]</p> <p><b>CIR Reporter: “Baldwin Drawing A Lot Of Heat On The Tomah VA Scandal, But Politicians In Both Parties Dropped The Ball.”</b> In January 2015, reporter Aaron Glantz tweeted: @SenatorBaldwin is drawing a lot of heat on the Tomah VA scandal, but politicians in both parties dropped the ball.” [Aaron Glantz Tweet, <a href="#">1/28/15</a>]</p> <p><b>CIR: “Like Baldwin and Kind, Johnson Has Been Aware Of The Problems For A While.”</b> As reported by the Center for Investigative Reporting, “He asked auditors to conduct a fresh investigation of the facility. Like Baldwin and Kind, Johnson has been aware of the problems for a while.” [Center for Investigative</p>



	<p>Reporting, <a href="#">1/14/15</a></p> <p><b>WISCONSIN EDITORIAL: JOHNSON HAD AN OBLIGATION TO DEFEND FEINGOLD FROM “FALSE STATEMENTS” ON TOMAH</b></p> <p><b>The Capital Times Editorial Board Said Johnson Had “An Obligation To Defend” Feingold From Third Party “False Statements Regarding Troubles At The Veterans Affairs Medical Center In Tomah.”</b> “Republican Sen. Ron Johnson has an obligation to defend former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, his Democratic challenger who is being attacked unfairly by a so-called ‘third-party’ group that is led by veteran Republican aides. We understand that politicians cannot always be held responsible for everything that is said by their allies, supporters or enthusiasts. But, in the case of a recent attack that touches on particularly sensitive and concerning issues, and that clearly paints an untrue picture of Feingold, Johnson can and should make it clear he recognizes and rejects false statements regarding troubles at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tomah.” [Capital Times, Editorial, <a href="#">1/27/16</a>]</p> <p><b>Capital Times Editorial Board Said Johnson “Cannot [...] Let False Impressions Be Perpetuated By A Group That Is Attacking Feingold — And, In So Doing, Benefiting Johnson.”</b> “Political races always feature a back-and-forth between candidates and their backers. And it comes as no surprise that the Johnson camp would quibble with Feingold’s assertion that Johnson is the ‘guy who dropped the ball’ when it came to responding to troubles at Tomah. But what Johnson and his aides cannot do is let false impressions be perpetuated by a group that is attacking Feingold — and, in so doing, benefiting Johnson.” [Capital Times, Editorial, <a href="#">1/27/16</a>]</p> <p><b>Capital Times Editorial Board: “The Senator Has A Particular Responsibility To Made It Clear That There Was No Failure To Take Action On The Part Of Russ Feingold — And That Any Suggestion That Such A Failure Occurred Is, As Lin Ellinghuysen Explained, ‘Not Truthful.’”</b> [Capital Times, Editorial, <a href="#">1/27/16</a>]</p>
<p>VO: Freedom Partners Action Fund is responsible for the content of this advertising.</p> <p>VISUAL: Russ Feingold Put Politics Ahead Of Veterans. Freedom Partners Action Fund paid for and is responsible for the content of this advertising. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee. FPAAction.org.</p>	<p><b>FREEDOM PARTNERS FACILITATES COORDINATION BETWEEN THE KOCH BROTHERS’ VAST NETWORK OF RIGHT-WING GROUPS...</b></p> <p><b>Freedom Partners Served As An Outlet For The Koch Brothers’ Funds And Ideas.</b> “An Arlington, Va.-based conservative group, whose existence until now was unknown to almost everyone in politics, raised and spent \$250 million in 2012 to shape political and policy debate nationwide. The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers, cutting checks as large as \$63 million to groups promoting conservative causes, according to an IRS document to be filed shortly.” [Politico, <a href="#">9/11/13</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HEADLINE: The Koch Brothers’ Secret Bank.</b> [Politico, <a href="#">9/11/13</a>]</li> </ul> <p><b>Freedom Partners Reported Raising \$162 Million Over The Past Two Years.</b> “The tax filings show that Freedom Partners, which was created in late 2011 to increase coordination within the Koch network, raised \$162 million over the past two years (\$36 million in 2013 and \$126 million in 2014). The 2014 haul was almost entirely from six-figure membership dues of wealthy donors whom the Kochs convene twice a year for summits that highlight the virtues of fiscally conservative, small government policies — and who raise money for groups and candidates who support those policies.” [Politico, <a href="#">11/17/15</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Freedom Partners Gave Americans For Prosperity \$22 Million In 2014.</b> “Americans for Prosperity, the network’s most politically</li> </ul>

aggressive group, received \$22 million from Freedom Partners. Concerned Veterans for America, which seeks to engage veterans on fiscal issues, received \$16 million. The LIBRE Initiative, which targets Latino voters, received \$6.5 million. A group that disseminates money to reach evangelical voters received \$6 million, while the American Energy Alliance, which opposes energy regulations, received \$2 million.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]

- **Freedom Partners Gave Concerned Veterans For America \$16 Million In 2014.** “Americans for Prosperity, the network’s most politically aggressive group, received \$22 million from Freedom Partners. Concerned Veterans for America, which seeks to engage veterans on fiscal issues, received \$16 million. The LIBRE Initiative, which targets Latino voters, received \$6.5 million. A group that disseminates money to reach evangelical voters received \$6 million, while the American Energy Alliance, which opposes energy regulations, received \$2 million.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]
- **Freedom Partners Gave The Libre Initiative \$6.5 Million In 2014.** “Americans for Prosperity, the network’s most politically aggressive group, received \$22 million from Freedom Partners. Concerned Veterans for America, which seeks to engage veterans on fiscal issues, received \$16 million. The LIBRE Initiative, which targets Latino voters, received \$6.5 million. A group that disseminates money to reach evangelical voters received \$6 million, while the American Energy Alliance, which opposes energy regulations, received \$2 million.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]
- **Freedom Partners Gave The American Energy Alliance \$2 Million In 2014.** “Americans for Prosperity, the network’s most politically aggressive group, received \$22 million from Freedom Partners. Concerned Veterans for America, which seeks to engage veterans on fiscal issues, received \$16 million. The LIBRE Initiative, which targets Latino voters, received \$6.5 million. A group that disseminates money to reach evangelical voters received \$6 million, while the American Energy Alliance, which opposes energy regulations, received \$2 million.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]
- **Freedom Partners Gave The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce \$2 Million In 2014.** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce received \$2 million from Freedom Partners, despite lobbying for the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, a program vehemently opposed by the Koch network as market-skewing corporate welfare. The Club for Growth and Heritage Action for America — which supported a 2013 government shutdown that the Koch network said it opposed — received \$1 million and \$150,000, respectively.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]
- **Freedom Partners Gave The NRA’s Institute For Legislative Action \$4.9 Million In 2014.** “Other grantees outside the Koch network included the National Rifle Association’s Institute for Legislative Action, which received \$4.9 million, and a group called the Dr. Joseph Warren Institute, which spreads the message of medical professionals who oppose Obamacare. It received \$300,000 from Freedom Partners.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]

**... SO IT’S NO SURPRISE THAT THE EXTREME KOCH BROTHERS ARE POURING MILLIONS INTO WISCONSIN TO SUPPORT THEIR “MODEL LEGISLATOR”**

**Freedom Partners Planned To Spent \$2 Million On An Ad Backing Johnson.** “A group backed by the Koch brothers is spending \$2 million on ads

featuring a Department of Veterans Affairs whistleblower criticizing former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold over a scandal at the department's Tomah clinic. But the spot doesn't mention the same whistleblower, Ryan Honl, has also criticized U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson over the issue. Johnson unseated Feingold in 2010 and the two are having a rematch this fall. Johnson is a Republican and Feingold a Democrat. The spot was produced by the Freedom Partners Action Fund, a group funded by the billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch. It features Honl sitting at a dining room table discussing falsified records and other problems at the clinic." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [5/2/16](#)]

**April 2016: Americans For Prosperity, "The National Conservative Group Funded By Charles And David Koch," Launched A \$1.1 Million Television Ad To Support Senator Ron Johnson.** "The national conservative group funded by Charles and David Koch is jumping into Wisconsin's U.S. Senate race, launching a \$1.1 million television ad campaign in support of Republican Sen. Ron Johnson. Johnson is running for re-election against the man he helped remove from that senate seat in 2010, Democrat Russ Feingold. The ad, put together by the group Americans for Prosperity, will start airing in Wisconsin on Wednesday, the day after the state's presidential primary election." [WKOW, [4/5/16](#)]

**Since 2010 The Koch Brothers Have Spent \$44 Million In Wisconsin To Help Conservative Candidates Like Senator Ron Johnson, Governor Scott Walker And Speaker Paul Ryan.** "For the 2016 election cycle, Charles and David Koch have announced they are on track to spend nearly \$900 million to elect politicians that would push their self-serving agenda. In Wisconsin, the Koch brothers have spent more than \$44 million since 2010, helping to foster the rise of Gov. Scott Walker, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Sen. Ron Johnson and to fund political astroturf groups to carry their water." [Wisconsin Gazette, [4/27/16](#)]

**Koch Attendees Said Johnson Was The Koch's "Model Legislator."** Politico's Ken Vogel wrote, "On the final full day of the seminar, I noticed Senator Johnson schmoozing two donors at a poolside cabana. I'd heard someone who attended these seminars describe Johnson as the Kochs' 'model legislator.'" [Politico, Ken Vogel, 5/29/14]