

Johnson condemns COVID-19 mandates in visit to Boulder Junction

Also stresses importance of early treatment

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

United States Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) met with constituents in Boulder Junction Oct. 8 for a constituent town hall meeting in the community center there.

Issues briefly discussed in the meeting included Johnson's thoughts on climate change, voter fraud, the overall state of politics in the U.S. and national debt.

He spent the majority of time extensively sharing his stance on COVID-19 treatment, the mandates surrounding the pandemic and what he can do to help in his position as a U.S. senator.

A big talking point for Johnson was early treatment and how he believes Ivermectin can be an impactful resource.

Ivermectin is a medication used to treat parasitic diseases. The medication is more commonly known for its use with animals -- like horses or cows -- and is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat antiparasitic diseases in humans.

Though Ivermectin is approved for antiparasitic treatment, the FDA has not approved the drug to treat viral infections like COVID-19.



TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

United States Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) answers questions at the Boulder Junction community center on Friday, Oct. 8.

Johnson believes the medication will be very effective and he has heard about the medication's success' first-hand from his sister.

"Early treatment is going to be required," he said. "My sister and her husband -- almost 70, diabetic, rheumatoid arthritis -- got COVID a couple weeks ago, early treatment. My sister, I told her to write this up, she said Ivermectin was amazing. She had a tough time with it. Twice they had to increase the dose. Each time it had an impact. The doctor told her ... when they increased the dose the final time 'well what will probably happen is you'll probably get your taste and smell back very quickly.' My sister, I just heard this

two days ago, said 'Yea, I got my taste and smell back almost immediately.'

This testimony is "anecdotal," said Johnson and he continued to reiterate his support for Ivermectin by noting the fact that the developers, William C. Campbell, Satoshi Omura and Tu youyou, won a Nobel Prize for their discoveries.

Early treatment was the basis for the senator's robust judgment on mandates. If there was more research done on early treatment in the beginning of the pandemic, he believes, there wouldn't have to be the reliance on mandates there is.

On Sept. 9, President Joe Biden put in place an "action plan" that included a

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Ron Johnson
United States senator

variety of mandates, one of which is a vaccine mandate for federal workers and contractors.

This mandate was touched on in the final question of the town hall meeting.

U.S. Air Force veteran Jim Stober of Presque Isle asked Johnson if he would help him if the U.S. Air Force decides to dishonorably discharge his son and revoke his medical license if he were to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as administer it as a doctor in the Air Force.

"Yes," Johnson responded. "I've been trying to preemptively help people like your son. And the way I've been trying to help them is to provide information to arm them as they are talking to their commanding officer ... I've been pushing back hard on the mandates in general using every piece of information I can, and again I'm not anti-vax. I'm for the right to try. I think it makes an awful lot of sense if you're elderly and you have a high risk of death or disease, then you might want to choose that. I don't encourage it, I don't discourage it, I'm just trying to provide people informa-

tion. But you can tell by my passion, I am completely opposed to these mandates."

Following the town hall meeting with well over 100 people, Johnson told members of the media he is for vaccinations under certain conditions, and on multiple occasions Johnson pointed out that he supported "Operation Warp Speed," an effort by the federal government to speed up the developmental process of the vaccine. But ultimately, he made it clear to everyone he spoke to that he supports the right to resist.

"I wish the vaccine would have been 100% effective," said Johnson. "But it's not. So again, I focus on early treatment and question 'what's the purpose of the mandates? If you can get infected, you can transmit. Why are we dividing our society with these incredibly corrosive and freedom robbing mandates? It makes no sense and that's my problem with the way we treated COVID; so much of the way we handled COVID makes no sense whatsoever."

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