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It's the Economy, Stupid.

It should not cost nearly an hour of work to buy a dozen eggs in the state of Wisconsin. Sadly, that is the case for those who make our state minimum wage.

Two months ago, Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term as President — with the promise of tackling the rising costs of everything from groceries to housing. But in his few weeks in office, he's done anything but. Reckless cuts have sent America into a tailspin, costing thousands of jobs, many of which are right here in Wisconsin.

But the chaos unfortunately doesn't end there. Wisconsin's farmers and agriculture industry are in the crosshairs, as they brace for the impact of tariffs and frivolous cuts to farmer assistance programs through the USDA. Just last week, I stood with farmers in my district who warned what would happen if tariffs were slapped on our biggest trading partners — simply put, it means higher costs for you, the consumer, and it puts a huge additional strain on family farms who are already working under the slimmest of margins. Make no mistake, costs will go up and family farms will go out of business as a result.

The neglect extends beyond agriculture. Pressing concerns like child care continue to be ignored, leaving working families to struggle with inadequate support. The high cost of prescription drugs remains unaddressed, forcing many to choose between medication and other essentials.

Consumer protection watchdogs like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have been intentionally muzzled, weakening their ability to protect citizens vulnerable to exploitation and fraud. Housing costs are continuing to rise with tariffs threatened on building materials, which are estimated to increase the cost of new home construction by between \$12,000 and \$25,000. This, combined with reports that hedge fund companies are driving up the costs of single and multi-family housing, will push the dream of homeownership out of reach for too many hardworking families.

I'll close with this. The real-life impacts of what's happening in Washington have been well documented: veterans who have lost services thanks to cuts at the VA; farmers who fear losing their export markets while seeing their input costs rise; Head Start programs being threatened with closure, and tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who could lose their healthcare thanks to the threat of massive cuts to Medicaid. All of this pain and confusion, just to finance a four trillion—with a "T,"—dollar tax cut benefiting the mega-wealthy.

Along with my Senate Democratic colleagues, I will do everything in my power to ease the strain on working families, but it's past the time for Legislative Republicans to come to grips with what these impacts could mean for our state and their constituents, and join me in standing up for Wisconsin.