



ROGER ROTH

STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

Thank you, Senator Jagler and members of the Committee on Housing, Commerce, and Trade for hearing SB 869.

Over the past two years, the Chinese Communist Party has continued to obfuscate and lie about the origins of the COVID-19 Virus; harassing and intimidating doctors who raised flags about a newly circulating virus,¹ altering diagnoses that would indicate the prevalence of a novel Coronavirus,² removing critical genome sequences from NIH databases,³ lying about human to human transmission⁴, suppressing news dissemination⁵ and promoting propaganda about the origins of the coronavirus,⁶ barring neighboring countries who successfully responded to COVID-19 from international institutions,⁷ and denying access to the potential origin site of the virus;⁸ actions which if not taken, reports have indicated, could have reduced the prevalence of COVID-19 by up to 95%.⁹

As our state and nation has had to grapple with the immense human and economic costs posed by the virus and by unlawful executive action, it's clear that the impact of these actions will be felt for decades to come.

Recently, a study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) that estimated the total financial costs to the United States to reach \$16 trillion through a combination of health, recession, and other financial costs.¹⁰ For a family of four, this totals damages of roughly \$200,000.

In order to acknowledge the economic, health, and personal costs to our state as well as hold the CCP accountable, I have introduced SB 869. This legislation requires the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to utilize methodology similar to the JAMA study in calculating the approximate costs to Wisconsin residents and levy those costs to the CCP.

Upon collection, SB 869 instructs the DOR to remit those funds directly to residents of Wisconsin as they have been forced to bear the brunt of these costs themselves.

While Wisconsin can never mitigate all of the losses, financial and personal, felt over the past year, the legislature can make clear that with hostile actions there will be consequences and deliver on the promises we made to help the people of Wisconsin.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51364382>

² <https://scienceintegritydigest.com/2020/03/11/dr-ai-fen-the-wuhan-whistle/>

³ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-gene-data-that-could-have-aided-research-on-early-epidemic-removed-from-database-11624472105>

⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-health-ap-top-news-international-news-china-clamps-down-68a9e1b91de4ffc166acd6012d82c2f9>

⁵ <https://www.propublica.org/article/leaked-documents-show-how-chinas-army-of-paid-internet-trolls-helped-censor-the-coronavirus>

⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/06/china/china-covid-origin-mic-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-says-china-is-maliciously-blocking-it-who-2021-05-11/>

⁸ <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/07/22/1019244601/china-who-coronavirus-lab-leak-theory>

⁹ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.03.20029843v3>

¹⁰ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2771764>

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