

BACKGROUND

DURING HER LAST CAMPAIGN, JONI ERNST SAID (IN HER OWN WORDS) THAT SHE WOULD NOT MOVE TO WASHINGTON DC AND BUY A BIG FANCY HOUSE.

7/23/13: When Asked How She Would Not Change In Washington If She Were To Become Senator, Ernst Said “I Don’t Intend To Go To Washington, D.C. And Buy a Big, Fancy House, Relocate My Family Out There.” “[Conway]: Let’s say you’re successful. You become the Republican candidate. You then beat Bruce Braley and you end up in Washington DC. There’s something in the water in Washington DC. [Ernst]: There is something in the water. [Conway]: People drink from the Potomac. [...] What are you going to do to make sure that the Joni Ernst sitting in front of me right now is the same Joni Ernst when she’s United States Senator Joni Ernst? [Ernst]: [...] I don’t intend to go to Washington, D.C. and buy a big, fancy house, relocate my family out there.” [Simon Conway Show, [7/23/13](#)] (AUDIO)

BUT AFTER SHE GOT TO WASHINGTON, ERNST BROKE THAT PROMISE AND BOUGHT A LUXURY CONDO.

Jan. 2016: Ernst Purchased Washington, D.C. Condo For Nearly \$400,000. “Since 2016 Ernst and her now ex-husband, Gail, have claimed the exemption in both Washington, D.C., and on their home in Red Oak, public records show. The Ernsts claimed the Washington, D.C., homestead credit after their January 2016 purchase of a nearly \$400,000 condo there. In August of that year, they purchased a home for \$350,000 in Red Oak. Starting that year, and ever since, they have claimed both as primary residences on their taxes. The Iowa exemption saved the family at least \$308 in property taxes, records show.” [Des Moines Register, [2/11/19](#)]

As Of 2020, Ernst Owned A Condo In DC. [DC Office of Tax and Revenue, Property ID - [Square: 1030 Lot: 2020](#)]

Ernst’s Condominium Complex Was Described As A “Luxury Midrise.” “In the eastern portion of Capitol Hill is the Lincoln Park Terrace Condominium. Completed in 2007, this luxury midrise stands five stories, with front bays and a mixture of contemporary and traditional design influences. There are 62 residences altogether, with one and two-bedroom floorplans, as well as penthouse suites. Some of the units have dens as well. The complex is named after the well-known park, which is a few blocks south. [...] Condos for sale typically range from 730 to 1200 square feet in size, with penthouses also available in one and two-bedroom models. Recent list prices have ranged from the high \$300s to the \$500,000 range. The building has private assigned parking, concierge service, underground bike parking, a courtyard and a roof terrace.” [DCModernHomes.com, [Property Information](#)]

Ernst’s DC Condo Offered Residents A “Fulltime Concierge Service.” “Lincoln Park Terrace is condominium building located at the corner of 13th Street and D Street on Capitol Hill. Delivered in 2007, the 5-story building features 62 one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and penthouse suites that provide courtyard views as well as views of the surrounding landmarks. Amenities include private assigned parking, additional storage, as well as fulltime concierge service.” [DC Condo Boutique, [Property Information](#)]

THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION ALSO FOUND THAT HER CAMPAIGN HAD KNOWINGLY AND ILLEGALLY ACCEPTED THOUSANDS IN PROHIBITED AND EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS,

Iowa Starting Line: FEC Found Ernst’s Campaign Had “Knowingly” Accepted Illegal Contributions. “Sen. Joni Ernst’s 2014 campaign paid the largest civil penalty ever levied by the Federal Election Commission against an Iowa politician, according to previously unreported commission records. In 2017, the FEC found Ernst’s first campaign for Senate broke the law by ‘knowingly accepting excessive and prohibited contributions, and by failing to timely refund excessive and prohibited contributions.’ The FEC fined Ernst’s committee, ‘Joni for Iowa,’ \$14,500 for campaign finance violations. According to FEC records, it received the payment from her committee in October 2017.” [Iowa Starting Line, [10/12/19](#)]

- **FEC Found Ernst’s Campaign Had “Knowingly Accept[ed] Excessive And Prohibited Contributions.”** “This matter was initiated pursuant to information ascertained by the Federal Election Commission (the ‘Commission’) in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. [...] The Commission found reason to believe that Joni for Iowa and Cabell Mobbs in his official capacity as treasurer (‘Respondent’ or the ‘Committee’) violated 52 U.S.C. [...] 2. Respondent violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) and 30118 by knowingly accepting excessive and prohibited contributions, and by failing to timely refund excessive and prohibited contributions.” [Conciliation Agreement, In the

matter of Joni for Iowa and Cabell Hobbs in his official capacity as Treasurer, MUR 7200, Federal Election Commission, filed [8/11/17](#)]

2014 October Quarterly Report: Ernst's Campaign Disclosed Excessive Contributions Totaling Over \$132,000.

"On October 15, 2014, the Committee filed the 2014 October Quarterly Report covering the period from July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 (Image 14020882161). This report disclosed excessive contributions totaling \$132,293.25 from sixty-four (64) individuals, seven (7) multicandidate political action committees, and one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee as well as excessive contributions totaling \$19,000.00 from thirteen (13) corporate entities." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]

- **2014 October Quarterly Report: Ernst's Campaign Disclosed Excessive Contributions Totaling \$19,000 From 13 Corporate Entities.** "On October 15, 2014, the Committee filed the 2014 October Quarterly Report covering the period from July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 (Image 14020882161). This report disclosed excessive contributions totaling \$132,293.25 from sixty-four (64) individuals, seven (7) multicandidate political action committees, and one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee as well as excessive contributions totaling \$19,000.00 from thirteen (13) corporate entities." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]
- **Jan. 2015: Ernst's Campaign Filed Amended 2014 October Quarterly Report Disclosing Data Entry Corrections And Timely Resignations And Reattributions Totaling Over \$109,000.** "On January 5, 2015, the Committee filed an Amended 2014 October Quarterly Report (Image 15020012456). The report disclosed data entry corrections and timely redesignations and reattributions totaling \$109,233.25 for forty-eight (48) individuals and seven (7) multicandidate political action committees." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]
- **Jan. 2015: Amended Report Clarified The Permissibility Of Contributions From 10 Entities Initially Questioned As Part Of 13 Corporate Entities.** "On January 5, 2015, the Committee filed an Amended 2014 October Quarterly Report (Image 15020012456). The report disclosed data entry corrections and timely redesignations and reattributions totaling \$109,233.25 for forty-eight (48) individuals and seven (7) multicandidate political action committees. The report also clarified the permissibility of contributions totaling \$17,250.00 for ten (10) entities. In addition, the report disclosed contributions designated for the 2014 Primary Election that were received after the date of the Primary Election and which appeared to exceed the Committee's net debts for the 2014 Primary Election by \$46,909.82." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]

The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Of The FEC Found That Ernst's Campaign Failed To Refund, Reattribute, Or Redesignate \$37,190 In Excessive And Prohibited Contributions In A Timely Manner – Including Prohibited Contributions From 3 Corporate Entities.

"Joni for Iowa ('the Committee') received excessive and prohibited contributions totaling \$37,190.00 for the 2014 General Election from 26 (26) individuals, one (1) partnership, one (1) multicandidate political action committee, one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee, and three (3) corporate entities. The committee did not timely refund, reattribute, or redesignate these excessive and prohibited contributions." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]

- **2014 October Quarterly Report: Ernst's Campaign Received \$11,325 In Excessive Contributions From Four Individuals, One Partnership, And One PAC, And Failed To Refund, Redesignate, Or Reattribute Them In A Timely Manner.** "During the 2014 October Quarterly reporting period, the Committee received excessive contributions totaling \$11,325 from four (4) individuals, one (1) partnership, and one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee that were not redesigned, reattributed, or refunded within the permissible timeframe as well as prohibited contributions totaling \$1,750 from three (3) corporate entities that were not refunded within the permissible time frame (Attachment 2)." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]
- **2014 October Quarterly Report: Ernst's Campaign Accepted \$1,750 In Prohibited Corporate Contributions And Failed To Refund, Redesignate, Or Reattribute Them In A Timely Manner.** "During the 2014 October Quarterly reporting period, the Committee received excessive contributions totaling \$11,325 from four (4) individuals, one (1) partnership, and one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee that were not redesigned, reattributed, or refunded within the permissible timeframe as well as prohibited contributions totaling \$1,750 from three (3) corporate entities that were not refunded within the permissible time frame (Attachment 2)." [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]
- **2014 30-Day Post General Report: Ernst's Campaign Accepted \$24,115 In Excessive Contributions From 22 Individuals And One PAC And Failed To Refund, Redesignate, Or Reattribute Them In A Timely Manner.** "During the 2014 30 Day Post-General Reporting period, the Committee received excessive contributions totaling

\$24,115.00 from twenty-two (22) individuals and one (1) multicandidate political action committee that were not redesignated, reattributed, or refunded within the permissible timeframe (Attachment 2).” [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]

INCLUDING ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CORPORATIONS,

Iowa Starting Line: FEC Found Ernst’s Campaign Took “Illegal Contributions And Fail[ed] To Property Refund Them In A Timely Manner.” “In addition to the illegal contributions and failure to properly refund them in a timely manner, the FEC also found Ernst’s campaign did not accurately disclose debts on its original 2014 July Quarterly Report. An amended filing for the July report was filed on October 15, which included the debts, but was well after when such debts were supposed to be disclosed.” [Iowa Starting Line, [10/12/19](#)]

2014 October Quarterly Report: Ernst’s Campaign Accepted \$1,750 In Prohibited Corporate Contributions And Failed To Refund, Redesignate, Or Reattribute Them In A Timely Manner. “During the 2014 October Quarterly reporting period, the Committee received excessive contributions totaling \$11,325 from four (4) individuals, one (1) partnership, and one (1) non-multicandidate political action committee that were not redesigned, reattributed, or refunded within the permissible timeframe as well as prohibited contributions totaling \$1,750 from three (3) corporate entities that were not refunded within the permissible time frame (Attachment 2).” [Reports Analysis Division Referral to Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, [9/17/15](#)]

- **Under Federal Election Law, Campaigns Were Prohibited From Accepting Contributions From Corporations.** “Campaigns are prohibited from accepting contributions from certain types of organizations and individuals. These prohibited sources are: Corporations, including nonprofit corporations (although funds from a corporate separate segregated fund are permissible) Labor organizations (although funds from a separate segregated fund are permissible) Federal government contractors Foreign nationals Contributions in the name of another” [FEC, [Who Can And Can't Contribute](#)]
- **FEC: Prohibited Contributions Must Be Refunded Within 30 Days Of Receipt Of Contribution.** “Prohibited contributions Questionable source If a committee treasurer deposits a contribution that appears to come from a prohibited source, he or she has 30 days from the date of the contribution’s receipt to: Confirm the legality of the contribution; or Refund the contribution. As evidence of legality, the treasurer should obtain a written statement from the contributor explaining why the contribution is legal. Alternatively, the treasurer may obtain an oral explanation by telephone and keep a written record of the conversation.” [FEC, [Handling a Questionable Contribution](#); Conciliation Agreement, In the matter of Joni for Iowa and Cabell Hobbs in his official capacity as Treasurer, MUR 7200, Federal Election Commission, filed [8/11/17](#)]

AND ERNST’S CAMPAIGN WAS FORCED TO PAY THE LARGEST PENALTY EVER FOR AN IOWA POLITICIAN.

8/11/17: Ernst’s Campaign Was Ordered To Pay \$14,500 By The FEC For Failing To Accurately Disclose Its Debts And Knowingly Accepting Excessive And Prohibited Contributions And Failing To Timely Refund Them. “1. Respondent violated 52 U.S.C § 30104(b)(8) by failing to accurately disclose debts on its original 2014 July Quarterly Report. 2. Respondent violated 52 U.S.C. §30116(f) and 30118 by knowingly accepting excessive and prohibited contributions, and by failing to timely refund excessive and prohibited contributions. VI. 1. Respondent will pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$14,500) pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(A).” [Conciliation Agreement, In the matter of Joni for Iowa and Cabell Hobbs in his official capacity as Treasurer, MUR 7200, Federal Election Commission, filed [8/11/17](#)]

Ernst Was Ordered To Pay Largest Civil Penalty In Iowa History. According to FEC, among all declared candidates seeking federal office in Iowa, the civil penalty of \$14,500 levied on Joni For Iowa was the highest amount enforced and paid by a committee. [Independent Review of FEC, [Enforcement Query System](#)]

Iowa Starting Line: Ernst’s Campaign Paid “The Largest Civil Penalty Ever Levied By The Federal Election Commission Against And Iowa Politician.” “Sen. Joni Ernst’s 2014 campaign paid the largest civil penalty ever levied by the Federal Election Commission against an Iowa politician, according to previously unreported commission records. In 2017, the FEC found Ernst’s first campaign for Senate broke the law by ‘knowingly accepting excessive and prohibited contributions, and by failing to timely refund excessive and prohibited contributions.’ The FEC fined Ernst’s committee, ‘Joni for Iowa,’ \$14,500 for campaign finance violations. According to FEC records, it received the payment from her committee in October 2017.” [Iowa Starting Line, [10/12/19](#)]

JONI ERNST HAS TAKEN NEARLY 600 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM BIG PHARMA AND THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY,

Ernst Has Taken \$590,771 In Total From Big Pharma And The Insurance Industry.

Ernst Took \$409,461 From The Insurance Industry Since 2013.

- **In 2014, Ernst's Campaign Took \$82,115 From The Insurance Industry.** [OpenSecrets, 2014 Money to Congress, [Insurance](#)]
- **Since 2015, Ernst's Campaign Committee And Leadership PAC Took \$327,346 From The Insurance Industry.** [OpenSecrets, Accessed [9/14/20](#)]

Ernst Took \$181,310 From Big Pharma Since 2013.

- **In 2014 Cycle, Ernst's Campaign Accepted \$11,200 From The Pharmaceutical And Health Products Industry.** [Center For Responsive Politics, 2014 Money to Congress, [Pharmaceuticals/Health Products](#)]
- **Since 2015, Ernst Accepted \$170,110 From The Pharmaceutical And Health Products Industry.** [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [9/14/20](#)]

OPPOSED ALLOWING MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE LOWER DRUG PRICES,

A Senators Sponsorship And Cosponsorship Indicated Support For The Proposal. [Congressional Research Service, [3/27/18](#)]

2019: Ernst Refused To Sponsor Or Cosponsor S.377, The Medicare Negotiation And Competitive Licensing Act Of 2019. [Congress.gov, 116th Congress, S.377, Introduced [2/7/19](#)]

2019: Ernst Refused To Sponsor Or Cosponsor S.99, The Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act. [Congress.gov, 116th Congress, S.99, Introduced [1/10/19](#)]

2019: Ernst Refused To Sponsor Or Cosponsor S.62, The Empowering Medicare Seniors To Negotiate Drug Prices Act Of 2019. [Congress.gov, 116th Congress, S.62, Introduced [1/9/19](#)]

Kaiser Family Foundation: Lawmakers In The 116th Congress Introduced A Variety Of Bills To Allow Medicare To Negotiate Lower Drug Prices, Including S. 377, S. 99, And S. 62. "What are the current approaches to allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices? Lawmakers in the 116th Congress have introduced a variety of bills to allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices in Medicare Part D, with the goal of lowering Part D program spending and enrollees' out-of-pocket costs. Some are stand-alone bills, while others are incorporated in broader legislation to expand health insurance coverage. This discussion focuses on five bills where the primary (or sole) purpose is to allow the Secretary to negotiate drug prices: H.R. 3, Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019, introduced by Speaker Pelosi and sponsored by Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Richard Neal (D-MA), and Bobby Scott (D-VA), the respective Chairmen of House Committees Energy & Commerce, Ways & Means, and Education & Labor (as amended on October 16, 2019) H.R. 1046/S. 377, Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act of 2019, sponsored by Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) in the House and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in the Senate H.R. 448/S. 99, Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act, sponsored by Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD) in the House and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in the Senate S. 62, Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act of 2019, sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) H.R. 275, Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2019, sponsored by Representative Peter Welch (D-VT)" [Kaiser Family Foundation, [10/17/19](#)]

AND WROTE A BILL THAT WOULD LET INSURERS DENY COVERAGE TO PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS,

Ernst Was An Original Cosponsor On A Bill To Repeal The ACA Without A Replacement:

Feb. 2015: Ernst Was An Original Cosponsor Of S. 336, The ObamaCare Repeal Act Introduced By Sen. Cruz. [S. 336, Cosponsored [2/2/15](#)]

Feb. 2015: Ernst Was An Original Cosponsor Of S. 339, The ObamaCare Repeal Act Introduced By Sen. Cruz. [S. 339, Cosponsored [2/2/15](#)]

- **2015: Sen. Cruz Introduced Bill That Proposed A Complete Repeal Of ACA To Be “Restored Or Revived As If Such Act Had Not Be Enacted.”** “Additionally, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) recently introduced legislation supported by forty-four co-sponsors entitled the ‘Obamacare Repeal Act,’ that also proposes a complete repeal of the ACA within 180 days of the bill’s passage into law. Both the House bill and the Obamacare Repeal Act in the Senate propose that once the ACA is repealed, the provisions of law that were amended or repealed by the ACA are to be ‘restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted’ (S.B. 339, 2/2/2015).” [National Law Review, [2/4/15](#)]

At The Time, Republicans Argued Repeal Of ACA Would Give Congress An Opportunity To Move Forward With Drafting A Replacement Option. “Senator Cruz and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who heads a ‘leadership working group’ composed of the heads of the committees tasked with to crafting an ACA replacement, both indicated that repeal of the ACA would give Congress an opportunity to move forward with drafting replacement health reform options to better serve the needs of the American people.” [National Law Review, [2/4/15](#)]

American Legion: Original Cosponsors Changed The Actual Text Of A Bill By Adding Their Name At The Time Of A Bill’s Introduction. “As part of his job as sponsor of a bill, this representative or senator will solicit his colleagues to become co-sponsors of his bill. A co-sponsor is a senator or representative who adds his or her name as a supporter to the sponsor’s bill. An ‘initial co-sponsor’ or ‘original co-sponsor’ is a senator or representative who is listed in the actual text of the bill as a co-sponsor at the time of a bill’s introduction.” [American Legion, [Legislative Center](#)]

The ACA Prohibited Insurance Companies From Denying Coverage To People With Pre-Existing Conditions, A Practice That Was Previously Legal:

Under ACA, Health Insurance Companies Were Prohibited From Refusing To Cover People With Pre-Existing Conditions Or Charge Them More For Coverage. “Under current law, health insurance companies can’t refuse to cover you or charge you more just because you have a ‘pre-existing condition’ — that is, a health problem you had before the date that new health coverage starts. These rules went into effect for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.” [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [About The ACA](#)]

Washington Post Fact Check: Before ACA, Insurance Companies Could Increase Premiums And Deny Coverage For People With Pre-Existing Conditions. “Before the ACA, insurance companies could consider a person’s health status when they decide whether and how much to charge premiums. If a person had a preexisting medical condition that would cost a lot of money, the insurance company could increase the cost of their premiums or even deny coverage.” [Washington Post, Fact Check, [6/28/17](#)]

LIKE DIABETES, CANCER, AND EVEN THE CORONAVIRUS

Diabetes Was A Pre-Existing Condition Covered Under The ACA. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [12/12/16](#)]

Cancer Was A Pre-Existing Condition Covered Under The ACA. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [12/12/16](#)]

Associated Press: Without The ACA’s Ban On Insurers Denying Coverage Based On Pre-Existing Conditions, “COVID-19 Could Have Stamped A Person ‘Uninsurable’” “COVID-19 could have stamped a person ‘uninsurable’ if not for the Affordable Care Act. The ban on insurers using preexisting conditions to deny coverage is a key part of the Obama-era law that the Trump administration still seeks to overturn.” [Associated Press, [5/3/20](#)]

- **Karen Pollitz Of The Kaiser Family Foundation Said That Without The ACA, “We Could See Tens Of Millions Of People Thrown Out Of Coverage” For Having Had COVID-19.** “Abolishing the ACA would cause tremendous damage and cause chaos throughout the country,” said Karen Pollitz, senior fellow at the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation. Anyone buying health insurance who subsequently contracted the coronavirus would face loss of coverage, she said. ‘If you bought the insurance and then caught the virus, you would be out of luck,’ she said. The abolition of pre-existing condition coverage is especially difficult for those who have Covid-19, because so little is known about the long-term health impact of the disease. There is evidence that the respiratory illness causes permanent damage in some patients. Those who have had the disease and recovered would have to disclose their status to apply for insurance, and could be turned down for coverage. ‘We could see tens of millions of people thrown out of coverage,’ said Pollitz. ‘There would be an onslaught of un-insurance.’” [Guardian, [6/27/20](#)]