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[00:00:17] **Speaker 1** On the other side of the aisle, Wisconsin Democratic Congresswoman Gwen Moore, who represents Milwaukee, joins us for her take of the quick action on the part of President Trump. And Congresswoman Moore, thanks very much for being here.

[00:00:32] **Speaker 2** Thank you for having me, Fredricka. Happy New Year.

[00:00:35] **Speaker 1** You, too. How do you regard the newly installed Trump administration?

[00:00:41] **Speaker 2** Well, I'll tell you, there really aren't any great surprises. He sort of campaigned on this these themes. A lot of people said, he wouldn't do that. He's just exaggerating. But he is really focusing in on some of the things that he promised, like sort of trying to suspend birthright citizenship, which, of course, is a constitutional provision which is already brought, you know, I think 22 states to the table with regard to litigating that, including our own attorney general, Josh Karl in Wisconsin. He said that he would put tariffs on our neighbors to the north and south, you know, usurping the U.S. treaty with Canada and Mexico, which, of course, he executed. And, of course, that will be very disruptive, particularly to our farm community. And I think that he maybe plans to backfill that with a general appropriations to farmers. But I do think that it will be very disruptive to our economy. You know, he's talked about increasing sort of trade wars and so on with China really using some IRS provisions that have never been used before. So I just think that it's going to create a lot of chaos and hopefully the very narrow margins that are. In the in the House. And then the Senate will force Congress to bring some cooler heads to the table. It really examined the outsized portions of this. And thinking of what happened in the transportation space just a couple of days ago, where there was some sort of disruptions and states were complaining about some transportation policies they put out. So hopefully we'll be able to see the Senate stand up to him even if the House can't.

[00:03:12] **Speaker 1** So, as you said, the president is making good on his campaign promises. What's your reaction to his pardons of the January 6th defendants, including 11 of them from Wisconsin?

[00:03:24] **Speaker 2** I tell you, Fredricka, I maybe I'm cowardly, but I'm terrified. One of my staffers said that she went to the cafeteria in this building and one of the January 6th people were there. And I do know that most of the nonviolent, you know, little old ladies that had handmade signs were not the people who were indicted in jail, The people who were indicted in jail. That mean they attacked police officers, they directed people to be violent. They had had days of. And I'm terrified. And my sense, I mean, they were actually in this building and I'm scared of it. And I do think that we have seen Republicans here, you know, who are very they're very, very careful not to criticize Trump, But we have seen them stumbling over their words as they have been stunned by this. I think they thought that there would be a little bit more passing and this one and that one. But these 1500 commutations and releases are absolutely stunning. And I think that it's going to be very difficult, you know, to to talk about law enforcement and initiatives in this government when we have let all these lawless people out. And I you know, I agree with some other analysts and critics to say we can bet that we're going to see some of these people again. There very few of them that are going to just learn their lesson and take their pardon and just go back into society. Hopefully some of them will. But we're going to see some of these these jokers again. And that is very terrifying.

[00:05:19] **Speaker 1** As to pardons. What do you think of Joe Biden's pardons to his own family and members of the January 6th committee?

[00:05:29] **Speaker 2** You know, I think some of the January 6th committee members didn't necessarily think they had done anything wrong, and I don't think they did anything wrong. But I think Joe Biden was thinking, you know, when you just think about Trump's entire inaugural day, he spent complaining and whining about how badly he was treated and all the people, you know. So I do think that even though they did nothing wrong, I think they did spare them from hiring a lot of lawyers and protecting themselves against nothing. So that probably was a strange thing to do. I don't know why he felt that he had to pardon his family or anything like that. But, you know, we've seen you know, Trump promised that he would have a an administration focusing on revenge. And I think he wanted to spare his family that, including the, you know, the January 6th investigators. Terrorism hunter Biden. I didn't necessarily think that he would pardon him. And I bet anything he would not have pardoned Hunter if he thought that there was a Justice Department that was going to be fair to his son. When I have heard I'm not a lawyer for any reason, but what I have heard is that any other person with the same set of crimes would not have been in jail or had a case brought against them at all. And in terms of signing some document saying, are you on drugs or something before you buy a weapon, as Ali has said, is that enforced by anybody? You know, no telling how many alcoholics or former drug addicts or whatever have weapons. I certainly would love to see the numbers of weapons decrease in this country. But I do think that he was trying to protect his son from extreme vindictiveness.

[00:07:44] **Speaker 1** Back to immigration policy. Donald Trump's new executive orders effectively shut the border and asylum and as we've discussed, a call to end birthright citizenship. What are your constituents saying to you about this? Again, not unexpected news.

[00:08:03] **Speaker 2** Well, you know, one of the things that I think is that, you know, nobody wants violent criminals, you know, in their community. And I think the to the extent that Trump is focusing on getting violent criminals out, this is something that probably has widespread support. Nobody thought that a whaler who's been here for 40 years and had bothered anybody was going to become one of the victims of this. And so I think that if he is enabled to go further than that, people will be concerned. Like the Dreamers, for example, you know, 78, 80% last time I checked of Americans think that the Dreamers should have a path to citizenship. After all, these are our children. They speak English. They benefited from having a public education. They're talented. We don't have it. We have a worker shortage in this country. And there's no reason to send our kids back to some country that they don't even know about. And I think that if you, you know, depends on the Dreamers, we might see some rising up from from the electorate. It depends on how he executes this. But immigration was one of the issues. Getting control order was one of was one of the issues he campaigned on. But I do think that our Constitution still provides the ability for people to seek asylum. So we might find a lot of litigation with regard to how he specifically administers, as it were, these executive orders.

[00:09:51] **Speaker 1** So we asked Senator Johnson about Donald Trump's rescinding of Biden's order on the cost of prescription drugs, and he said he just didn't think that that would make a big difference. What do you think?

[00:10:07] **Speaker 2** Well, I'll tell you this. We kept the cost of insulin at $35 a month. Now, I have no idea why insulin has been costing people. Something is upwards of $500 a month for all of the medications and the paraphernalia that goes around it. But I mean, if he does that, again, there is not anybody doesn't have a relative who who's not a diabetic. Diabetes is one of the the costliest disease in America. Not just to institutions and the medical field generally, but to individuals. And I think that, you know, this is this $35 a month cap has been a relief to Americans in all sectors of our society. And I think that there will be consequences if this is rescinded.

[00:11:12] **Speaker 1** So also, the administration is aggressively, as you know, dismantling DEA programs and efforts within the federal government. How does that sit with you?

[00:11:24] **Speaker 2** Well, I can tell you that the military is certainly going to push back hard against the DEA because they need DEA. I mean, you know, if they're trying to recruit, you know, some spies to go into some of these, you know, Muslim countries, they can't very well since some white man over there. You know, if they if they think that the military really relies on DEA, the CIA, the FBI to complete their missions, this will undermine their operations tremendously. And so I think that that the pushback you're going to get is from the military in particular. They're not they just cannot function without DEA. You know, some other things that he's talking about, the Inflation Reduction Act was so funny. And the vice the vice ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee this cycle. And so yesterday, we listened to testimony from members of Congress and I mean, Republican after Republican after Republican came and sat before us and talked about how we IRA, which is why the prescription drug provisions came from talked about how partizan but pleaded with the panel Republicans to to take a scalpel to this and that and not a big night for sort. Because they said that these I these energy related legislation ev things are creating great investment in our country. And prescription drugs, I think items are part of that. So we had Republican after Republican after Republican begging the Republican leadership. You know, not to totally dismantle everything in the biden administration's i r a bill.

[00:13:35] **Speaker 1** That being the inflation reduction act.

[00:13:38] **Speaker 2** That's right.

[00:13:39] **Speaker 1** So from your perspective, what will the next four years look like? And what can those in opposition of of many of these things like yourself do about it?

[00:13:51] **Speaker 2** Well, we're not talking about four years. We're really talking about two years. I think that the Republican Party overreaches on some of these items, like, for example, trying to get rid of the premiums, the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare premiums, like they tried to destroy the ACA, and you had John McCain doing his thumbs down. It is so popular and so important that if they try to overreach on items like that in two years, it will subject them, I think, to lose it in the House of Representatives for sure, and maybe even flip in the Senate. And then you'd have Donald Trump in the White House with that particular configuration of the legislature. I mean, we still you know, Trump wants to take over all of the institutions of government. And I think that if he overreaches, as he's already starting to do, that he will pay a price because the American people, the American people will they will react. I mean, there are 85 million eligible voters that didn't vote. So this notion that he has some sort of mandate does anything he wants to is not the case. Some of those 85 million people will react. You know, one of the things they want to do is to block grant Medicaid. And I think that if they do that, seniors in nursing homes in particular, are going to catch it. They find themselves in nursing homes with severe staff shortages because Medicaid won't be there and their loved ones will be maltreated. And this, I think, you know, they'll pay a price for that.

[00:15:47] **Speaker 1** All right, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, thanks very much for your time.

[00:15:52] **Speaker 2** Thank you.

[00:15:56] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you. We took a bunch of extra time, which I really appreciated. I could have asked more questions, but I started.