Tammy Baldwin promised to stop the revolving door between lobbyists and Congress, then hired lobbyists to her own staff.

In a 2015 op-ed, Tammy Baldwin and Hillary Clinton claimed the “so-called revolving door between government and the private sector” is a “big reason” Americans are losing trust in government.

- Baldwin and Clinton claimed the “so-called revolving door between government and the private sector” is a “big reason” Americans are losing trust in government. “But increasingly, Americans’ trust in government is eroding. And a big reason for that is the so-called revolving door between government and the private sector.” (Hillary Clinton and Tammy Baldwin, “To Restore Trust in Government, Slow Wall Street’s Revolving Door,” HuffPost, 8/31/15)

- Baldwin and Clinton wrote, “We need to make sure those who do the people's work in Washington are actually doing it – not worrying about former or future bosses at the public's expense.” “We need to make sure those who do the people's work in Washington are actually doing it – not worrying about former or future bosses at the public's expense.” (Hillary Clinton and Tammy Baldwin, “To Restore Trust in Government, Slow Wall Street’s Revolving Door,” HuffPost, 8/31/15)

- Baldwin and Clinton said public trust in government can diminish when a “public servant's past and future are tied to the financial industry.” “Most of the time, that private-sector experience is an asset, not a liability. But in some cases, it can affect the public trust – for example, if a public servant's past and future are tied to the financial industry. That's when people start worrying that the foxes are guarding the hen house.” (Hillary Clinton and Tammy Baldwin, “To Restore Trust in Government, Slow Wall Street’s Revolving Door,” HuffPost, 8/31/15)

- Baldwin and Clinton warned that “loopholes” allow former government officials to “lobby in practice, even if they aren't officially called lobbyists.” “Right now, loopholes allow former government officials to lobby in practice, even if they aren't officially called lobbyists. They offer regulatory access to private interests as ‘outside advisors’ or ‘strategic counselors.’ That means they can avoid legal requirements that lobbyists have to meet. This bill would clamp down on that. This bill is full of sensible ideas like these. It should become law.” (Hillary Clinton and Tammy Baldwin, “To Restore Trust in Government, Slow Wall Street’s Revolving Door,” HuffPost, 8/31/15)

- Baldwin and Clinton claimed the “loopholes” allow those who offer regulatory access to private interests as “outside advisors” or “strategic counselors” to avoid legal requirements that lobbyists have to meet. “They offer regulatory access to private interests as ‘outside advisors’ or ‘strategic counselors.’ That means they can avoid legal requirements that lobbyists have to meet. This bill would clamp down on that. This bill is full of sensible ideas like these. It should become law.” (Hillary Clinton and Tammy Baldwin, “To Restore Trust in Government, Slow Wall Street’s Revolving Door,” HuffPost, 8/31/15)
Tammy Baldwin has been critical of the revolving door between the federal government and major industries, introducing legislation to “slow” it.

- In 2016, Tammy Baldwin called on President-elect Trump to “keep his promise” by “closing the revolving door” between Wall Street and Washington. “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin today sent a letter to President-Elect Trump, calling on him to keep his promise to make Washington work for Wisconsin by closing the revolving door between Wall Street and Washington and not appointing ‘foxes to guard the hen house.’” (Press Release, “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Calls on President-Elect Trump to Keep His Promise to Make Washington Work for Wisconsin, Not Wall Street,” Senator Tammy Baldwin, 11/17/16)

- Tammy Baldwin has been critical of the revolving door between the pharmaceutical industry and federal agencies that “undermine[s] the safety of our communities.” “The pharmaceutical industry has a deep-rooted and strong influence in Washington and a revolving door between drug companies and government cannot undermine the safety of our communities,’ said Senator Baldwin. ‘Patients, families and the public need to have trust that the DEA and FDA are working for them, not powerful Washington interests.” (Tammy Baldwin, “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Introduces Legislation to Slow Revolving Door Between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Federal Agencies,” Press Releases, 11/2/17)

  - In 2016, Baldwin has introduced legislation to “slow the revolving door between the pharmaceutical industry and the federal agencies.” “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin has introduced new legislation that will slow the revolving door between the pharmaceutical industry and the federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), that are entrusted to keep patients and the public safe.” (Tammy Baldwin, “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Introduces Legislation to Slow Revolving Door Between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Federal Agencies,” Press Releases, 11/2/17)

- Tammy Baldwin wants to “stop the revolving door” of “Wall Street insiders, corporate executives and long-term industry lobbyists.” “President Trump promised to ‘drain the swamp,’ but this revolving door keeps spinning,’ said Senator Baldwin. ‘When Wall Street insiders, corporate executives and long-term industry lobbyists move through the revolving door from the private sector to public service and back again, they should not be rewarded with big bonuses and a free pass to rewrite the rules to benefit corporate special interests that already have too much power in Washington. Let’s stop the revolving door and make sure that government officials are working on behalf of the public interest and our common good, not powerful special interests.” (Tammy Baldwin, “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Re-Introduces Expanded Legislation to Slow the Revolving Door Between Wall Street, Corporate America and Washington,” Press Releases, 1/16/19)

  - In 2019, Tammy Baldwin introduced legislation “to slow the revolving door between corporate America, Wall Street and Washington.” “WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chair Elijah Cummings (D-MD) today introduced the Executive Branch Conflict of Interest Act to slow the revolving door between corporate America, Wall Street and Washington, prohibit ‘government service
golden parachute' bonus payouts and combat conflicts of interest. This legislation expands on Baldwin and Cummings' Financial Services Conflict Of Interest Act, first introduced in 2015, which aimed to slow the revolving door between Wall Street and financial regulatory agencies in the federal government.” (Tammy Baldwin, “U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Re-Introduces Expanded Legislation to Slow the Revolving Door Between Wall Street, Corporate America and Washington,” Press Releases, 1/16/19)

Tammy Baldwin has hired several lobbyists to work on her official staff, while other Baldwin staffers have left her office for lobbying roles.

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel headline: “Tammy Baldwin decries 'revolving door' even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries 'revolving door' even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)
  - “Records show that 24 staff employees [for Baldwin] have either come from or gone into the lobbying business...” “Records show that 24 staff employees for the state's junior senator have either come from or gone into the lobbying business, some in the industries Baldwin has specifically warned against, including the pharmaceutical industry and the financial sector.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries 'revolving door' even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)

- Despite her past criticism of the revolving door, Baldwin has hired several lobbyists to work on her official staff, while other Baldwin staffers have left her office for lobbying roles. “'Increasingly, Americans' trust in government is eroding,' Baldwin and Clinton wrote for Huffpost. 'And a big reason for that is the so-called revolving door between government and the private sector.' It was a strong message. But, as it turns out, some of those closest to Baldwin have not heeded her message. Records show that 24 staff employees for the state's junior senator have either come from or gone into the lobbying business, some in the industries Baldwin has specifically warned against, including the pharmaceutical industry and the financial sector.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries 'revolving door' even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)

- Immediately after lobbying Baldwin’s subcommittee on behalf of healthcare companies seeking to block government regulations, Rebecca Branum became general counsel to Baldwin in 2022. “Baldwin's general counsel in 2022, Rebecca Branum, was plucked from her lobbying job for Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, a government relations firm specializing in health care. The firm has touted its efforts "to protect and expand" policies supported by clients and "block disruptive regulatory proposals." Earlier in 2022, Branum lobbied the Senate on the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Appropriations bill. Baldwin was a member of the Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on these topics. She is currently chair of that subcommittee.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries 'revolving door' even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)
• Elizabeth Pike Sharp left her role as Baldwin’s legislative director to lobby against a medical device supplies sales tax that Baldwin voted to repeal. “Just after serving as a legislative director for Baldwin, Elizabeth Pika Sharp went to work in government affairs for Advanced Medical Technology Association as a lobbyist. While there, her group lobbied in 2013 against a sales tax on medical device supplies to fund Obamacare, a measure Baldwin opposed. Senator Baldwin voted alongside a bipartisan group of 79 senators to repeal the tax.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries ‘revolving door’ even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)

• Katherine LaTour left her role as Baldwin’s legislative aide to lobby the Senate for the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International. “After rising from an intern to a legislative aide for Baldwin, Katherine LaTour was named the director of government relations for the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International. LaTour registered as a Senate lobbyist in the first quarter of 2019, just after leaving Baldwin’s office.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries ‘revolving door’ even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)

• Lobbyist Vicki Hicks was hired by Baldwin as a special projects aide in 2021, before leaving the office to lobby the Senate again; her clients included financial services companies and a pharmaceutical company. “It’s hard to believe that Baldwin’s staff didn’t know Vicki Hicks’ background. Both before and after working as a special projects aide for Baldwin early in 2021, Hicks was registered to lobby the Senate. Over the years, she has represented three financial services companies and one pharmaceutical firm, Merck & Co.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries ‘revolving door’ even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)

• Danielle Gilliam-Moore left Baldwin’s staff in 2015 to lobby the Senate for the tech industry, promoting bills that Baldwin co-sponsored. “No ex-Baldwin staffer appears to have done better in corporate America than Danielle Gilliam-Moore. Immediately after leaving Baldwin’s office in 2015, Gilliam-Moore began lobbying the Senate for the Business Software Alliance, which represents technology companies. Gilliam-Moore lobbied the Senate on the Electronic Communications Privacy Amendment Act of 2015, which Baldwin later co-sponsored. Gilliam-Moore also lobbied the Senate on the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019, another measure that Baldwin co-sponsored. She supported both bills before Gilliam-Moore became a lobbyist. Gilliam-Moore is now the director of global public policy for Salesforce, a technology company worth more than $250 billion.” (Daniel Bice, “Tammy Baldwin decries ‘revolving door’ even as 2 dozen staffers take or leave lobbying jobs,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/18/23)