

# MATT SHEA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 391  
Greenacres, WA 99016

## THE FREEDOM REPORT 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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## THE FREEDOM REPORT 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Every House floor session begins with the presentation of the flags, the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. With the Washington State flag and Old Glory before us, we stand with our hands over our hearts and promise to be faithful to our Republic, and to uphold "liberty and justice for all." And then we ask for God's guidance and strength to help us make the right decisions for the citizens of Washington. In my view, it is one of the most important things we do during the day in the Legislature.

It has been my commitment to you from day one of my service as your state representative to boldly defend our freedom — your freedom — and the freedom of generations to come. That is why I am proud "**The Freedom Agenda**" is the most successful slate of conservative legislation in Washington in more than 20 years. The Freedom Agenda is based on defending the U.S. Constitution, property rights, gun ownership, veterans, and the sanctity of human life while promoting **lower taxes, less government and of course, more freedom!**

In the past 16 months, with bipartisan support of our conservative legislation, eight new Freedom Agenda bills were signed into law. With your support, we are changing the face of government in Olympia and demonstrating that effective, principled, proven, conservative leadership wins!

I am pleased to bring you this update — **The Freedom Report** — of our successes in the Washington State Legislature for 2015 and 2016.

In freedom,

Matt Shea  
State Representative  
4th Legislative District  
"Lower taxes, less government, more freedom"



## REP. MATT SHEA • THE FREEDOM REPORT

### I am here to serve you!

I work for you throughout the year. Please call, email, send me a letter, or set an appointment to meet with me. My legislative assistant, **Will Rasavage**, is happy to take your call.

For your convenience, I maintain a district office in Spokane Valley. Here is my contact information:

#### Rep. Matt Shea

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MATT SHEA  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE

Be sure to visit my website at: [RepresentativeMattShea.com](http://RepresentativeMattShea.com)

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#### LEADERSHIP:

Assistant Floor Leader

#### COMMITTEES:

- Environment (Ranking Republican)
- Judiciary (Assistant Ranking Republican)
- Transportation

## Operating budget boosts education funding, but also relies on tax increases

The \$38.2 billion 2015-17 state operating budget adopted last June increased funding to K-12 education by nearly \$3 billion. Teachers received raises and college tuition was lowered.

The supplemental operating budget passed this year adds another \$15 million for K-12, including \$5 million to recruit and retain K-12 staff and support for beginning teachers. Although these are good things, I voted against these budgets. Here's why:

- These budgets continue to fund Planned Parenthood abortions. We should not be using taxpayer money to extinguish the lives of unborn human beings.
- While Republicans stopped massive tax increases proposed by Democrats, these budgets still rely on other new tax increases, including an Internet tax on such things as Tupperware, lipstick and some essential oils, a tax increase on medicine, and new penalties on those who owe royalty taxes. I will not support tax increases!
- The supplemental operating budget dips into the state's "rainy day fund" to pay for \$190 million of last year's wildfire suppression. If the state would properly manage forests and public lands, we wouldn't have severe wildfires, which are not only costly, but one of the state's largest contributors to carbon pollution.
- These budgets raise state spending by more than 12 percent, which is an unsustainable level.



*Rep. Matt Shea speaks before a crowd of several thousand people who participated in the annual March for Life Rally at the state Capitol.*



## Freedom Agenda bills become law

During the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions, the following Freedom Agenda bills, among others, passed the Legislature and were signed into law:

- ✓ **Accountability for criminals under home detention** - House Bill 1943 enacts strict new accountability on the state's electronic home monitoring program for convicted criminals.
- ✓ **ATV/ORV usage** - House Bill 1817 provides liability immunity for local jurisdictions when wheeled all-terrain vehicles are operated on public roadways.
- ✓ **ATV/ORV reciprocity** - House Bill 1918 allows reciprocity regarding ATV/ORV licensing and use with Idaho.
- ✓ **Ballot measure campaign promotion** - House Bill 1858 bans county auditors and the secretary of state from putting their names on taxpayer-funded ballot envelopes when running for re-election.
- ✓ **Child care facilities** - House Bill 2511 removes a Department of Early Learning cost-prohibitive regulation on day care centers that was forcing them to separate five- and six-year-olds who attend school from those of the same age not yet enrolled in school.
- ✓ **Woodstove Protection Act** - House Bill 2785 allows the use and installation of uncertified woodstoves during an emergency.
- ✓ **Short-barreled rifles** - Senate Bill 6165 allows a person to manufacture, own, buy, sell, loan, furnish, transport, assemble or repair short-barreled rifles.
- ✓ **Legalizing industrial hemp** - Senate Bill 6206 creates a limited opening of growing industrial hemp in Washington. I was the prime sponsor of House Bill 1552, which would have allowed for broader growth and production of industrial hemp.

## Rachel's Law – Helping parents save the lives of their drug-dependent children

While this newsletter highlights many successes the past two years, my greatest disappointment is we were unable to convince the Democrat chair of the House Judiciary Committee to allow Rachel's Law to move forward.



*Rachel Meyers*

In March 2015, 18-year-old Rachel Meyers of Spokane died of a heroin overdose on her grandmother's floor after her father, Scott Meyers, was repeatedly refused the ability to keep her confined in a treatment center.

Scott did everything to help his daughter overcome her drug addiction. But he hit a brick wall at every turn. When he had her hospitalized, the next day she walked out, and the hospital said it did not have the legal author-

ity to hold her. That's because in Washington, once a child reaches the age of 13, a parent no longer has the legal ability to provide consent for involuntary treatment of that child. Rachel walked away several times, never completing a program.

I introduced House Bill 2958, which would have given a parent or guardian the authority to admit and keep a minor child in a chemical dependency treatment facility for up to 14 days. Democrats squelched my bill without a hearing and passed another measure known as "Ricky's Law," with far more complications and costs, and only requires that parents are "notified."

Rachel's story is a parent's worst nightmare. It doesn't have to be this way. We can give parents tools to help them save their children's lives without excessive cost and bureaucracy. I will keep fighting on Scott's behalf to save our children.

## Bad gun bills dead

Thanks to the outpouring of support for our Second Amendment rights, we stopped some bad bills that would have restricted, and in some cases prevented, the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. They included bills that would have imposed an "ammunition tax," banned semi-automatic weapons, and allowed local governments to prevent possession of firearms in parks, libraries, recreational facilities or on public transit.

My response was to introduce House Bill 2975, the Firearms Civil Rights Act. The measure would have punished government officials for illegally confiscating guns or denying a concealed weapons permit. It would have also increased penalties against those using a firearm to commit a felony. Unfortunately, the measure never received a public hearing.



*Rep. Matt Shea confers with House Republican Leader Rep. Dan Kristiansen about a legislative proposal on the House floor.*



## Industrial hemp for jobs

Until the 1950s when it was banned, Washington was a leader among the states in the growth of industrial hemp. It is estimated that some 25,000 products can be made from industrialized hemp, everything from shampoo to car doors. That's thousands of new jobs.

House Bill 1552 would have legalized industrial hemp in Washington, creating an industry with new jobs and positive impacts on our state's economy. Although my measure did not advance, Senate Bill 6206 passed the Legislature, creating a limited opening for industrial hemp growth. It was one of the 27 bills the governor vetoed on the final night of the regular session. But we overrode all of those vetoes, including this one, which will at least crack open the door for some growth of industrial hemp in Washington. I'm hoping to push that door open wider in future sessions and restore Washington's place as leader in the growth and production of this great economic product, and allow new businesses to create jobs here in Washington.