

REP. MATT SHEA • THE FREEDOM REPORT

Giving back to our veterans

I am proud to support legislation to help our active duty service members and soldiers, as well as veterans in Washington. I supported these bills that passed the Legislature and were signed into law:

- **Conversion kits on motorcycles** - House Bill 1334 is a measure I sponsored which allows disabled veterans and other riders to place stabilizing conversion kits on motorcycles, giving them the freedom to enjoy motorcycle riding.
- **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans' Day** - House Bill 1319 is a measure I co-sponsored which creates a day of recognition on March 30 each year for Washington's

Vietnam veterans. This finally acknowledges the important service and sacrifice of these veterans, including my father, who was an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam.

- **Financial and legal protections** - House Bill 2171, a measure I co-sponsored, provides various protections for military service members ordered to federal active duty. Examples include: reduced interest rates on preexisting debts, foreclosure and eviction protections, and protections from default judgments.
- **Higher education for veterans** - Senate Bill 5969 awards academic credit to individuals for certain military training courses or programs by 2016. Senate Bill 5318 waives the one-year residency requirement for in-state tuition.

MATT SHEA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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THE FREEDOM REPORT
4TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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The Freedom Agenda Scorecard

With more than **50 Democrat co-sponsors** of our bills, we are changing the face of government in Olympia. With your support, we have proven that effective, principled, proven, conservative leadership wins!

Here is the final scorecard. Out of 65 Freedom Agenda bills, we have had:

- ✓ 42 hearings;
- ✓ 32 bills voted out of the House/Senate;
- ✓ 25 national news stories;
- ✓ 12 bills signed into law without veto;
- ✓ Two parliamentary rule changes, including citizens testifying before lobbyists/agencies;
- ✓ Stopped gun control;
- ✓ Stopped the state gas tax increase;
- ✓ Delayed implementation of part of Common Core; and
- ✓ Although House Bill 2789 was vetoed, the governor ordered a moratorium on drone use.



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Each time I take the oath of office as your state representative, I promise in front of God and you, my neighbors, that I will “uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America . . . and the Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington.” This is an oath I take seriously. It is my sworn duty, just as it was when I served in the U.S. Army defending our nation overseas in two wars. Now, I am fighting a different battle in the defense of freedom – our 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 state in 20 years. The Freedom Agenda is based on promoting **constitutional principles with lower taxes, less government and more freedom!**

Of the 12 Freedom Agenda bills signed into law, seven are expected to allow for the creation of jobs and have a massive positive economic impact across our state. I invite you to read more about these job-creating bills inside this newsletter. Also, take a look at **The Freedom Agenda Scorecard** on the back of this newsletter and see for yourself the impact we are making **with bipartisan support** on our conservative, freedom-expanding legislation.

I will continue to defend liberty, stand up for the people, and uphold a God-honoring constitutional Republic. I am pleased to bring you this update – **The Freedom Report** – of our successes in the Washington State Legislature for 2013 and 2014.

In freedom,

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



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4TH DISTRICT

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Rep. Matt Shea spoke in front of the state Capitol steps in January to more than 7,000 people who attended the March for Life Rally against abortions and for life in the womb. Said Shea, "Without life, there can be no freedom. If we get the life issue wrong, we get every other issue wrong. God is the author of life, not government."

Budget has wrong priorities against the unborn

This year, the Legislature approved a supplemental operating budget of \$155 million, which included an extra \$64 million for K-12 education. This is in addition to the extra \$1.6 billion directed to education last year.

Unfortunately, I could not support this budget because it provides taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood and other services that perform abortions. While it is important to support Washington's children, it is equally important to provide a voice for our unborn children – to protect their lives. That is why we proposed Amendment 842 which would have defunded Planned Parenthood and allocated that money to help disabled veterans. Unfortunately, that did not pass and it is one of the reasons why I voted against the supplemental operating budget.

No new taxes!

Democrats in the Legislature proposed to increase taxes on bottled water (the same tax rejected in 2010), recycled fuel, prescription drugs and e-cigarettes, and eliminate the sales tax exemption for out-of-state shoppers. We fought against them and were successful. The final supplemental operating budget has no tax increases. We also successfully fought and killed the proposed 13.5 cent state gas tax increase on multiple occasions. Keeping taxes low is another success story of The Freedom Agenda!

Freedom Agenda bills become law

The following Freedom Agenda bills, which will help to create jobs in Washington, passed the Legislature and were signed into law:

- ✓ **Fresh water docks** - House Bill 1090 expands use of composites in dock construction and will help two manufacturers in Spokane County create jobs. I introduced this bill.
- ✓ **Motorcycle conversion kits** - House Bill 1334 legalizes motorcycle conversion kits in Washington for the disabled. This has already significantly expanded sales. I authored this bill.
- ✓ **Pass-thru food distributors** - Senate Bill 6388 reduces regulations and fees on pass-thru food distributors. This will expand opportunities for Zaycon Foods, a national distributor based in Spokane Valley. I authored the House companion measure, House Bill 1827.
- ✓ **ATV/ORV usage** - House Bill 1632 opens thousands of miles of roads to all-terrain vehicle usage. This is estimated to have an economic impact of \$50 million over the next 10 years. I wrote and introduced this bill.
- ✓ **Short-barreled rifles** - Senate Bill 5956 legalizes short-barreled rifles, which will expand sales. I was the co-sponsor of the House measure, House Bill 1561.
- ✓ **Child care facilities** - House Bill 2191 protects daycare providers from the Department of Early Learning's contradictory and cost-prohibitive regulations that were putting them out of business. I co-sponsored this bill and will be seeking similar protections for small businesses from all regulatory agencies.
- ✓ **Rural development** - House Bill 1224 partially ends Growth Management Act regulations, which will allow for much better rural development. I strongly supported this bill.



Protecting your privacy against government drones

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures." Article 1, Section 7 of the Washington State Constitution also protects the right to privacy. A government-operated drone with a high-tech optical lens camera has the ability to hover near or over our backyards, businesses, farms, and ranches observing our every movement, for any or no reason at all. I'd call that "unreasonable" and an attack on our privacy and our livelihood. The Department of Ecology actually wants to use drones for regulatory enforcement!

That's why I joined with Rep. David Taylor to sponsor House Bill 2789 to limit government's use of drone surveillance. Under the bill, regulatory enforcement of business and agriculture would be banned. State and local law enforcement agencies would need specific approval from their elected officials to buy drones and a search warrant to use an unmanned surveillance aircraft for much of the information they might collect. Drones could be used, with government approval, for tasks like monitoring forest fires, weather damage or wildlife, or responding to a declared state of emergency. But generally not for other information-gathering purposes that would encroach our personal privacy.

While the measure had bipartisan support as it passed the Legislature, I was disappointed Gov. Jay Inslee vetoed the bill. However, in his veto message, the governor announced a 15-month moratorium on the purchase and use of drones by executive agencies and asked local governments to do the same.



Rep. Matt Shea and Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, watch the results displayed in the House chamber as state lawmakers vote on the drone surveillance measure, House Bill 2789.

Defending your right to keep and bear arms

During the 2013 session, we stopped gun-control legislation that would have forced you to register your ammunition and would have required universal background checks on all of firearms. This year, two initiatives were presented to the Legislature. Initiative 591 would prevent the state from adopting universal background checks during gun sales. The other, Initiative 594 would establish background checks on all gun transfers in the state, including between family members or for simply borrowing a gun from a friend for a weekend hunting trip. It would also apply the "use tax," similar to our state sales tax, to all such transfers. I fought Initiative 594 in committee. Because the Legislature took no action, both measures will appear on the November general election ballot.

On a positive note, the Legislature also approved Senate Bill 5956 (I co-sponsored the companion bill in the House), which legalizes the use and ownership of short-barreled rifles in Washington state.



Industrial hemp for jobs



Did you know George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers grew hemp? Benjamin Franklin owned one of America's first paper mills, which processed hemp. And school books were made from hemp until the 1880s. Industrial hemp is used in many ways, from hemp milk to hempcrete, which is a mold and fire-resistant building material.

I introduced House Bill 1888, which would legalize industrial hemp in Washington, create an industry with new jobs, and have a tremendous positive impact on our state's economy. The measure passed the House, but died in the Senate in the final hours of the 2014 session. I will push this bill again next year.