

October 2, 2017 – 1 PM

Olympia Indivisible Delegation visit with
Phil Gardner, District Director for Congressman Denny Heck, and
Dallas Roberts, District Representative
Thurston and Mason CO office 420 College St SE Ste 3000

O.I. members attending: Carol Williams, Rosalie Romano, Maureen Farr,
Mari Stewart and Lucy Winter

Notes in green italics are Lucy's paraphrased responses from Phil and Dallas.

Introductions

1. Thank you for seeking an extension of the **DACA** renewal deadline by signing, along with 84 other Democrats and 7 Republicans, the September 26th letter asking the Department of Homeland Security to extend the deadline for people applying for renewals of DACA status to January 15.

[DACA extension](#)

2. Thank you for cosponsoring **H.R.3695 - Protect DREAMer Confidentiality Act of 2017** providing for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for the DACA Program.

3. Thank you again for cosponsoring **H.R. 3440: Dream Act of 2017** which protects Dreamers. Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]

There are 200 cosponsors for this bill and it has bipartisan support. What are the chances of this passing?

Staff told us that house R's are working on this. Of course, DH is strongly in support of protecting Dreamers.

4. Thank you for supporting **H.Con.Res.77 - Condemning fear-mongering, racism, anti-Semitism, bigotry, and violence perpetrated by hate groups.** Sponsored by Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]

5. Thank you for cosponsoring **H.R.3258 - Marketplace Certainty Act**, and for your continued support of the **ACA**.

This bill will help millions of Americans afford health care by permanently funding Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) subsidies and expanding access to more hardworking families. Currently, seven million Americans rely on these critical subsidies to afford out-of-pocket costs, like deductibles and co-payments.

6. Thank you for cosponsoring H.R.3748 - Medicare Buy-In and Health Care Stabilization Act of 2017 to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for individuals who are ages 50 to 64 to buy into Medicare and to provide for health insurance market stabilization.

This would allow Americans ages 50-64 to buy into Medicare, enacts new steps to stabilize the individual market, and requires the Department of Health and Human Services negotiate volume discounts on prescription drugs for all Medicare beneficiaries.

Just as an FYI for you all, below are two articles looking critically at the Medicare For All bills. Denny is not in favor of these bills in their current form.

[Medicare for all isn't the solution](#)
[Are you sure you want single payer?](#)

While DH is in favor of universal care, he thinks the current Medicare for all bills are not the way to go as they are extremely flawed. Also, in the current congress, there is absolutely not appetite for pursuing this. DH is choosing not to spend his political capital on an issue that has NO possibility of success. The bill HR 3748 is a next step that he supports.

7. Ask: Vigorously oppose the **Trump tax plan** which is simply a windfall for the rich. By lowering the highest tax rate from 39.6% to 35%, eliminating the estate tax and eliminating the alternative minimum tax Trump has once again shown he is only concerned for the rich. And since he continues to refuse to release his own taxes, we are unable to see how much he would personally benefit. Additionally, this tax plan would blow a huge hole in the deficit.

Trump's tax plan will cut rates for businesses and the wealthy, while eliminating widely used exemptions and deductions. He dubbed the plan a "middle class miracle," which would collapse the tax brackets from seven down to three while raising the lowest rate from 10% to 12% and cut the top rate from 39.6% to 35%. The standard deduction would double to \$12,000 for individuals and to \$24,000 for married couples. The White House and the Republicans haven't said what loopholes would be closed in order to offset the trillions of dollars in revenue lost by cutting tax rates. Republicans want to pass a tax bill by the end of the year, which would be their first major legislative achievement this year.

[Washington Post](#)

[Trump's Tax Plan has Echoes of the Kansas Tax Cut Experiment](#)

DH will be a strong NO

8. Ask: Vote NO on October 5th for the House **Budget resolution** calling for billions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare in order to give a huge tax cut to the wealthy and to corporations.

[House Budget Resolution](#)

DH: will vote No

9. Ask: Exercise congressional oversight and accounting over **The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)**. The Trump administration continues to roll back protections (regulations) throughout the government. This office can effectively shape, delay and even negate critical regulations proposed by executive agencies such as the EPA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

[The federal agency that few Americans have heard of](#)

In the hands of the Oversight committee, although Phil reminded us of the Separation of Powers.

10. Ask: Support H.R.3876 – the Stop Waste and Misuse by Presidential Flyers Landing Yet Evading Rules and Standards (SWAMP FLYERS) Act. This prohibits the use of Federal funds for the official travel of any senior political appointee on private aircraft. Democratic Reps. This was introduced by Ted Lieu of California, Ruben Gallego of Arizona, Jamie Raskin of Maryland, and Pramila Jayapal of Washington and comes after former HHS Secretary Tom Price reportedly chartered private jets to travel over the last four months.

Secretaries Price and [Treasury Secretary Steve] Mnuchin, and [EPA] Administrator Pruitt owe the American people an apology, and they should pay back the costs of their luxury travel on the taxpayer's dime." Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33] (Introduced 09/28/2017), cosponsored by Rep. Pramilla Jayapal.

11. Ask: Demand funding in the budget for fighting white nationalism. For all Trump's big talk about keeping America safe, his proposed budget puts Americans in danger of attacks like the one in Charlottesville. While attacking

immigrants and Muslims, the Trump administration has failed to direct adequate resources to fighting terrorism perpetrated by white supremacists, like the incident we saw in **Charlottesville**. In fact, the Trump Administration [cancelled a grant approved by the Obama Administration to Life After Hate](#), an organization that educates communities on the dangers of white nationalism.

12. Ask Please cosponsor **H.R.3222 the Do No Harm Act**. Rep. Joe Kennedy III, along with Rep. Bobby Scott and 50 other co-sponsors, has introduced the Do No Harm Act – long-overdue legislation to reaffirm that one person’s religious freedom can never be used to deny another one’s civil rights.

When right-wing, anti-LGBTQ extremists want to discriminate against LGBTQ people across the country, they often use religion as an excuse. Unfortunately, there is a federal law that helps protect their bigotry: The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The federal RFRA was designed to protect the rights of religious minorities. Today, it is mainly used to justify discrimination, and state legislators and governors have used it to justify enacting similar legislation on a state level across the country.

[Do No Harm Act](#)

Phil will check into this, but was sure DH would support this concept.

13. Ask: Please vote **NO** on **H.R.620 - ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017** should it come to the House floor for a vote. As noted by Human Rights Watch, this bill “would very deliberately undermine the protections afforded under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)” and would “dramatically increase the burden on any person with a disability who seeks to vindicate their rights.”

DH: will vote NO

14. Ask: Work to pass an emergency relief package for **Puerto Rico** and the **U.S. Virgin Islands**. Our government has failed to give the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, all of whom are US citizens, the same attention as it did the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

DH signed on to a letter to Trump asking for \$10B in aid to Puerto Rico and USVI.

15. Ask: Oppose the newest **Muslim ban**. We need to work with our Muslim neighbors, not against them.

16. Ask: Speak out denouncing the Trump administration's reckless rhetoric regarding **North Korea** and make clear that we will not support any congressional authority for Trump to use military force.

17. Ask: to cosponsor H.R. 2242 Keep It in the Ground Act of 2017 which would prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, and prohibit coal leases on Federal land. Last week we asked Rep Heck to support this, but we would like him to cosponsor as well.

Sponsored by Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2] [Keep It In The Ground Act 2017](#)

DH cosponsored the H.R.169 - West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2017 which would protect the states of WA, OR and CA from off shore drilling.

18. Ask: Vote NO on H.R.3144 - To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time. This is bad legislation that undercuts regional decision making and sidesteps the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental legislation.

Sponsored by Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]

DH will vote NO

19. Ask: work to reauthorize the **Children's Health Insurance Program** since funding lapsed on October 1st. Millions of children rely on this funding. What is Rep Heck doing to insure a clean reauthorization of **CHIP**?

Sens. Orrin Hatch and Ron Wyden, who head the Senate Finance Committee, reached an agreement earlier this month and introduced a bipartisan bill to extend the program for five years. However, there has been little movement and CHIP was not reauthorized on October 1.

CHIP reauthorization

In addition to not reauthorizing CHIP, congress failed to reauthorize Community Health Centers. Staff thought they would be reauthorized (hopefully) before money ran out in the state.

20. Ask: In the wake of the Las Vegas shootings, we ask Rep Heck to work on sane gun laws.

Staff told us of two bills: H.R.38 - Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, and H.R.3668 - SHARE Act. Both are supported by the NRA and DH is very opposed them.

Schedule next meeting. Take photo.