

March 23, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.

Olympia Indivisible Delegation visit with Dallas Roberts, District Representative and Phil Gardner, District Director for Congressman Denny Heck

Thurston and Mason CO office 420 College St SE Ste 3000

Notes taken by **Becky Beswick**

O.I. members attending: Emily Itai Mesch, Chris Hempleman, Paul Trause
Becky Beswick, John Mankowski and Lucy Winter, moderator

1. Introductions: Six members of Olympia Indivisible introduced themselves.

Emily has lived in Israel for 10 years, Chris is retired from Dept. of Ecology, Paul is a retired government worker and currently is doing work with Quixote Village and the homeless, Becky is a retired special education teacher, John is currently working at Fish and Wildlife through the U of W, and Lucy is retired from DNR.

2. Thank you for your strong opposition to the American Health Care Act (HR 1628) which would repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Chris presented and shared a related personal story from the late 1980s about her husband's development of mental illness. At that time, mental health was not covered by their insurance. Due to related costs they lost their farm. He also lost his life to suicide.

Discussion continued around overnight developments in attempts by the House to get enough votes.

3. Thank you for voting NO on HR 985 the Fairness in Class Action Litigation and Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act of 2017. This bill severely restricts class-action lawsuits and our civil rights. The bill passed the House on March 9th by a vote of 220-201.

Becky presented.

4. Thank you for co-sponsoring HR 1503, the SOLVe Act 2.0 which would defund Trump.'s new immigration ban.

Emily presented and shared a recent personal experience where she was singled out by US immigration on a flight. Although she is a US citizen, she comes from a family of immigrants.

5. Thank you for comments made during FBI Director Comey's testimony regarding Russian attempts to destabilize our democracy. "...this is about open, free, fair, trusted elections."

Paul presented, commenting on the importance of integrity in government. With that in mind he asked for Denny's support in investigating and holding Nunes accountable for his breach of confidentiality informing Trump of Russian investigation info before notifying the senate committee.

Paul and Becky commented on Denny's thoughtful presentation.

6. Ask Congressman Heck to co-sponsor HR 1452, the No TRUMP Act. This bill is designed to prohibit any payment for lodging and other travel expenses by the Federal Government for any expenses incurred at a hotel owned or operated by the President. Taxpayer's dollars are meant to support the American people, not to support the Trump family private enterprises. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 9. (Sponsor: Rep. Blumenauer, Earl D-OR-3)

John presented and shared his personal experience with the strong ethics of most government workers.

7. Ask: Congressman Heck what he is doing (or has done) to help persuade Republican members of Congress to resist the AHCA.

Emily presented and asked how she might work effectively with Rep. Young during her work time in Alaska this summer.

Phil Gardener said it was difficult to effect change on highly politicized issues, and that Denny has a strength of building on common ground. Much goes unheard, as congressmen and women are conversing and networking on the house floor. He suggested that Heck has had conversations with Reichert and others.

8. Ask Congressman Heck to vote No on HR 354 the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2017. In attempting to prevent abortion, this will severely limit access to birth control and other basic reproductive care, especially for those who have few or no alternatives. (Sponsor: Rep. Black, Diane R-TN-6)

Emily presented. Phil responded that Denny opposed this.

9. Ask for a full bipartisan and transparent investigation of the Russian interference in the US election and connections between Trump campaign officials and Russian officials. What does Congressman Heck propose given Chairman Nunes' actions yesterday when he briefed the President Trump about possible surveillance in 2016. Does this potentially compromise the impartiality of the Intelligence Committee Chair?

Paul presented.

Phil responded that Heck prefers an independent commission.

When asked what he thought might happen next, Phil suggested committee Democrats will begin subpoena process, pressure on Nunes may grow, more public hearings, possibly more leaks.

10. Ask Congressman Heck to co-sponsor H Res 186 to direct Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to provide to the House ten years of President Trump's tax returns along with other information on his financial dealings. Disclosure of these documents will provide vital information as Congress and the American public try to untangle the Trump Administration's connections to Russia. Unlike every other presidential candidate in recent history—Democrat or Republican—President Trump has refused to release his tax returns to the American people. Given that every day brings another revelation about the Trump campaign's communications with Russia, this issue is more important now than ever. (Sponsor: Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. D-NJ-9)

Becky presented. Lucy commented we shouldn't normalize this behavior.

Dallas explained a resolution does not have the force of law, but would apply pressure through media coverage.

11. Schedule next meeting. Picture.

Upcoming town hall events were noted.

Tues. evening, 4/11 in Olympia regarding federal budget proposal.

Tues. evening, 4/18 in Pierce County regarding Russian interference in our elections.