

# KEITH RIPP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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Keith with constituents visiting the Capitol Christmas Tree.

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



# State Representative KEITH RIPP

Proudly representing the 42nd Assembly District, which includes portions of the Counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette.



## KEITH RIPP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

With spring looming on the horizon, I am sure you are all looking forward to enjoying warmer weather just as much as I am. Even though this winter has been relatively mild compared to previous years, I look forward to the changing of each season because the transition symbolizes the creation of new opportunities and moving forward as a whole. As a third generation farmer, small business owner, and citizen legislator, I take great pride in working hard every day to improve Wisconsin for residents and visitors from around the world and to make sure it is the best state to work, raise a family, and retire.

Throughout the 2015-2016 Legislative Session, the State Legislature passed numerous beneficial pieces of legislation that makes Wisconsin a better place. Our big focus was to continue growing the economy by crafting bills centered on job creation, developing workforce training programs, investing in public education, enhancing public safety, and reforming state government to ensure taxpayer money is well-utilized and not spent frivolously. This newsletter highlights several bills I authored and passed this session, including legislation to promote UW-Madison agricultural research, wine walks, and implements of husbandry. I have also included information about the 2015-17 biennium state budget, H.O.P.E. Agenda, Wisconsin Rural Initiative, and the Alzheimer's and Dementia Package.

I would like to thank you for the honor of serving as your representative in the 42nd Assembly District. One of my favorite parts of this job is assisting you and listening to your ideas about addressing a wide variety of state issues. Many of the most successful legislative initiatives come directly from you, so please know that my door is always open and do not hesitate to contact me at the State Capitol.

Sincerely,

**Keith Ripp**  
State Representative  
42nd Assembly District

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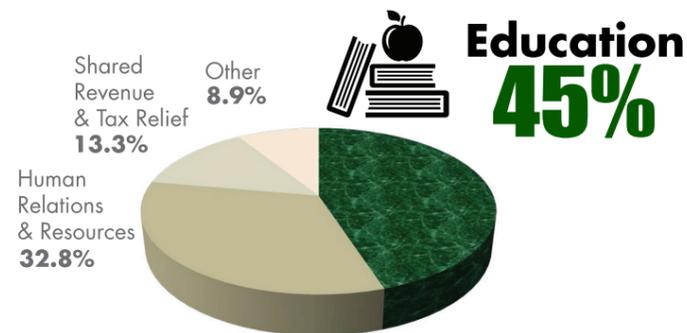
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### Committee Assignments

- Committee on Agriculture
- Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
- Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
- Committee on Transportation (Chair)
- Committee on Workforce Development

## 2015-2017 State Budget

A breakdown of **how** each tax dollar **is spent**



### E-Updates

Periodically I send out an E-update to constituents in the district to keep them informed regarding what is happening in Madison. Oftentimes we feature a section in our E-update asking for your input on a piece of legislation that is circulating throughout the Capitol for co-sponsorship, because we want you to have a voice. If you would like to stay informed please send me an e-mail.



### Wisconsin State Capitol Tours

Our State Capitol building in Madison is the best in the nation. It has a rich history and a unique beauty that I encourage everyone to experience on a guided tour. Please let us know when you stop by. We would love to greet you and take a picture.



# State Representative KEITH RIPP



Keith testifying on Wine Walks Legislation in the Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations.

## PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AND FOCUSING ON RURAL WISCONSIN

As a third-generation farmer and small business owner in a mostly rural district, supporting agriculture and investing in Wisconsin's rural areas has always been a top priority for me. This legislative session, most of the legislation I have brought forward and passed focused on these two important areas.

### Implements of Husbandry (IoH)

Last session, I brought forward a comprehensive IoH package (2013 Wisconsin Act 377) to address issues related to increasingly large and heavy farm equipment operating on roadways in Wisconsin. While that package was a large step in the right direction, I continued over the last year of implementation to work with stakeholders in the agricultural industry, local governments, and WisDOT to evaluate how well it has been working and address any unforeseen issues that may have come up.

This session, I brought forward two separate bills, known as "IoH 2.0" and "IoH 3.0," to further address this issue and continue to achieve balance between the need for increased weight and capacity and the need to maintain public safety and manage impacts on infrastructure.

### UW-Madison Agricultural Research

This legislation provides narrow flexibility to allow the UW College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and UW-Madison to react in a timely manner to a rapidly changing agricultural real estate landscape by selling or

exchanging properties in urban areas and re-investing in land that becomes available near other existing research stations in more rural locations.

### The Wisconsin Rural Initiative

Several rural legislators, including me, brought forward the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, which aims to improve health care, educational, workforce, and technological opportunities in rural Wisconsin. The eight pieces of legislation included boosting funding for broadband expansion grants, increasing available resources for youth apprenticeship grants and tuition reimbursement grants for apprenticeships, creating rural opportunity zones, expanding a student loan repayment program for rural teachers, encouraging STEM education in rural school districts, bolstering funding for Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program (WRPRAP), and creating a Broadband Forward! Community certification

### Wine Walks

Over the past decade, communities in Southwest and South Central Wisconsin, including several in my district, have promoted businesses in their area by sponsoring events called Wine or Beer Walks. These events serve as a tool for downtown promotion and tourism by drawing people into downtown areas who may not otherwise patronize these businesses. These business owners have recognized significant value in giving new customers a chance to see their store without the pressure or purpose of a direct sale. They also give new businesses an opportunity to introduce themselves to their communities. My bill created a framework to allow for these events to continue in Wisconsin and helps rural cities better compete against major urban areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [RepRipp.com](http://RepRipp.com)



Keith visiting the new 3-D printer at the Brandon Public Library.

## STRIVE FOR GREATNESS: HEALTH CARE IN WISCONSIN

One of the main focuses this session was improving on and maintaining good practices in Wisconsin health care. The 2015-2017 Budget Bill successfully preserved SeniorCare and Self-Directed Care, and we also passed two large legislative packages aimed at improving Alzheimer's and Dementia care and continuing to combat heroin and opiate addiction in Wisconsin.

### SeniorCare and Self-Directed Care

SeniorCare is an important prescription drug program for our state's seniors. While many elderly people are limited to fixed incomes and tight budgets, SeniorCare helps them to afford the prescription drugs they need. This program is unique to our state and the budget maintained its current funding. The budget specifically froze enrollment fees and drug co-pays at the current levels, and helped to ensure that our state's elderly population will be able to continue to afford their prescription medications.

The 2015-17 budget also included a new plan that expands Family Care and self-directed care. The plan integrates long-term and medical care (acute and primary care) to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors. This plan is a better value for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers and our successful IRIS and ADRC services around the state are continuing under this new Family Care program.

### Alzheimer's and Dementia Package

This year, we voted on a large package of bills that will expand resources for individuals with degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia, and also focuses on support for their families.

### H.O.P.E. Agenda

Last session, we began the difficult task of addressing Wisconsin's devastating heroin and opiate epidemic by enacting several bills into law that give communities more tools to combat addiction and prevent the possibility that these drugs end up in the wrong hands.

In the majority of cases, heroin addiction begins with an addiction to prescription medications. Because of that, we moved the focus this session to our growing prescription drug addiction problems. We passed several bills that establish reporting requirements for the prescription drug monitoring program, mandate guidelines for prescribing controlled substances, and allocate money to drug treatment programs and access to treatment.

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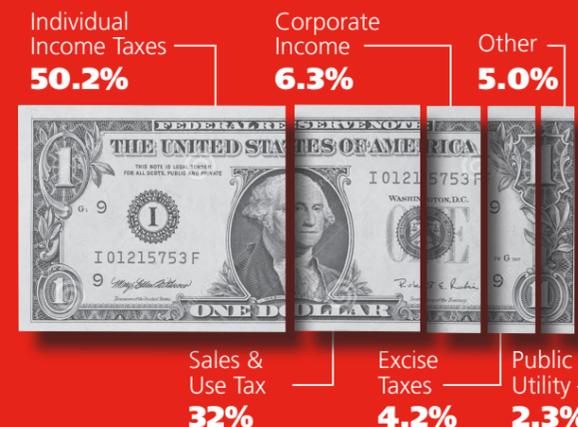
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO A 14-YEAR LOW



## 2015-2017 Budget



### A breakdown of where each tax dollar comes from



### A breakdown of how each tax dollar was spent

