

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – June 25, 2007

Energy: A Step Forward in Making America More Self Reliant

On Thursday, I voted for comprehensive energy legislation that invests in alternative and renewable energy sources, supports efficiency and conservation, and uses innovation and education to build a more secure future. The bill also raises automobile fuel efficiency standards for the first time in 20 years.

[Details](#)

Education: Updating Head Start to Meet the Needs of Children and Young Families

On Tuesday, I helped pass a critical bill that updates the federal Head Start program. As a former pre-school teacher, I know the enormous impact early learning programs have on a child's future success, and I have been committed to strengthening this important program. In the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP), I worked to improve the bill by implementing changes that will improve the quality and coordination of Head Start programs.

[Details](#)

[Bill Summary](#)

Labor: Backing Employee Free Choice Act, Standing Up for Workers' Rights

On Tuesday, I voiced my support for the Employee Free Choice Act in a speech on the Senate floor. The Employee Free Choice Act allows workers to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union.

[Details](#) | [Watch](#)

Title IX: Celebrating 35 Years of Opening Doors to Young Women

Last week I sponsored a Senate Resolution to honor the 35th Anniversary of Title IX. Congress enacted Title IX in 1972 to address widespread gender discrimination against women in athletics and all other aspects of their education. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in the administration of any education program that receives federal funding. I was pleased when the full Senate passed my resolution on Thursday.

[Details](#)

Stem Cells: President Vetoes the Hopes of Millions of Americans

On Wednesday, the President vetoed S. 5, the *Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007*. The bill would have given hope to millions of American with debilitating diseases and conditions by allowing for federal funding for increased stem cell research. I am disappointed that the President refuses to heed the call of the majority of Americans who want to expand the current limits on stem cell research. I will continue to work with my colleagues to make stem cell research a federally funded priority.

[Details](#)

Education: Working to Improve College Access and Affordability

On Wednesday, I helped move forward comprehensive legislation to make college more accessible and affordable for students. The *Higher Education Access Act of 2007*, which I helped to draft, passed the HELP Committee with my support and will now head to the Senate floor for consideration.

[Details](#)

Investing in Washington State Communities

Yakima: Building a Year-Round Agriculture Workforce

Last week, I announced that I included funding in a key spending bill to help create a new agricultural vocational institute in Yakima to help meet the need for skilled-farm labor throughout the year.

[Details](#)

["Federal funds secured for farm worker skills training program"](#) – Yakima Herald Republic

Vancouver: Building a Visitor Center at Fort Vancouver

Last week, I also announced that I provided funding to build a world class visitor center at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

[Details](#)

["Reserve visitors center supported"](#) – The Columbian