

# ***PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW***

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

## **Iraq: Speaking Out to Give Our Troops More Time at Home**

On Wednesday (9/19), I spoke on the Senate floor in favor of a bi-partisan amendment that would have provided service members with more time at home with their families, increased our military readiness, and improved our ability to respond to disasters at home. The amendment would have given active duty service members at least as much time at home as they spend deployed. It would have also provided National Guard and Reserve troops the time off they need to be with their families and respond to emergencies here at home. Unfortunately, the amendment, which needed 60 votes to move forward, was narrowly defeated by Senate Republicans 56-44.

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

[Learn](#) more about this amendment

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## **Public Safety: Calling for an Increased FBI Presence in Washington State**

On Monday (9/17), I wrote to Robert S. Mueller, Director of the FBI, to call for an increased FBI presence in our state. In my letter, I cited recent reporting that revealed a significantly low per capita average of FBI agents in Washington State. I also discussed the many unique security challenges our state faces including border-related terrorism threats, busy seaports, and an abundance of federal land.

[Read](#) my letter

["Murray to FBI: You're putting state at risk"](#) – Seattle PI

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## **Mental Health: Landmark Bill Makes Mental Health Coverage More Equitable, Accessible, and Affordable**

On Wednesday (9/19), landmark legislation that I co-sponsored which will bring mental health insurance coverage to more Americans passed the Senate. The Mental Health Parity Act of 2007 will help ensure that Americans who have health insurance for physical illnesses are provided with equivalent coverage for mental illness. I worked with my colleagues to guarantee that the bill does not preempt the strong Washington state mental health parity laws we already have in place.

[Details](#)

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## **Education: WSU President Joins Me to Discuss Historic Higher Education Bill**

On Wednesday (9/19), I held a conference call to discuss the higher education bill Congress is sending President Bush. The bill makes higher education affordable for more Americans by providing the largest increase in college aid to students since the G.I. bill. Washington State University President Elson S. Floyd joined me on the call to highlight the need for President Bush to sign this important bill.

[Details](#) | [Listen](#) to portions of the call.

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## **Healthcare: Working to Expand Community Healthcare Centers**

On Wednesday (9/19), I introduced legislation that will support more local community healthcare access coalitions. The legislation authorizes \$75 million in funding to help increase the number of community health access coalitions across the country from 250 to over 600.

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