

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – January 28, 2008

Economic Security: Stimulus Package Can Help Now, but Long-Term Support is Also Needed

Last week, the President and leaders in the House of Representatives agreed on the framework of a plan to stimulate our sagging economy that centers on providing rebates for taxpayers. I believe that putting money back in the pockets of working families is a good first step on a long road to economic recovery. I also believe that in order to help get more families back on their feet, we need to invest more here at home – in our housing, our roads and in creating jobs. In the coming days, I will be working to include additional components in the stimulus package that will support seniors, provide assistance with lighting and heating costs, and help those on food stamps.

[Video](#) – Discussing economic challenges and the stimulus package.

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Tribes: Bill will Modernize and Improve Indian Health Care

Last Wednesday (1/23), I delivered a speech on the Senate floor supporting the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which is being considered by the U.S. Senate this week. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act has not been reauthorized since 1992 and since that time the disparity in care between Indians and the general population has grown larger. - [Details](#)

[Watch](#) my speech.

[Video](#) - Discussing this important issue.

["U.S. Senate: Best Care Possible"](#) – Seattle PI

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Homeland Security: Bush to Cut Critical Grant Programs

Next week, when the President unveils his budget for 2009 it is expected that there will be significant cuts to Homeland Security grants that our ports, our first responders, and our law enforcement officials rely on. In the first two weeks of this year I traveled extensively throughout our state to discuss the importance of these cuts to the men and women who help keep us safe.

[Video](#) - Discussing this critical issue.

[Read](#) a letter I sent the President on this issue.

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Agriculture: Importance of Disaster Assistance Made Clear to Agriculture Secretary Nominee

Last Thursday (1/24), I sat down with Ed Schaefer, the nominee to be Secretary of Agriculture. We discussed the recent floods in our state and how they have affected our farmers. I encouraged him not to forget these farmers and others who desperately need disaster assistance. I also discussed the importance of trade to the agriculture industry in our state. Our producers have been working hard to open foreign market to Washington state and I asked the nominee to ensure that efforts are stepped-up to grant our farmers access to new markets.

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