

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – May 18, 2007

IRAQ: Working to Redeploy our Troops, Target Al Qaeda, and Rebuild America's Military

In a speech on the Senate floor on Wednesday, I called for new priorities to protect America including redeploying troops from Iraq's civil war, targeting Al Qaeda terrorists around the globe, and rebuilding America's military. - [Read](#) my speech | [Watch](#)

Port Security: Helping Tacoma to Lead the Way on High-Tech Security Advances

Last Friday (5/11), I joined with representatives of the Port of Tacoma, Coast Guard, Customs, Homeland Security, port workers, and members of the Tacoma business community to celebrate the placement of a cutting-edge radiation test center at the Port of Tacoma. The center will pioneer new technology in cargo radiation screening that will allow trains to be screened for radiological materials. The center was established as part of my landmark SAFE Ports Act, which was signed into law last October. - [More](#)

[Port safety screeners tackle moving targets](#) – Seattle Times

Veterans: Pressing for Honesty from the VA

On Wednesday, I called for a new era of honesty from the VA during the nomination hearing of Dr. Michael Kussman to become the VA's top health official. I questioned Dr. Kussman about his role in exaggerated reports of past VA successes, failures to present honest funding needs, and the awarding of controversial bonuses at a time when the VA continues to struggle to meet the needs of veterans. More

[VA official vows better information](#) – Tacoma News Tribune

Keeping Kids Away From Drugs: Stopping the Abuse of Cough Syrup Drug

On Monday, I introduced the *Dextromethorphan Distribution Act* in the U.S. Senate. The bill would make it illegal for any unregistered individual to possess or distribute unfinished Dextromethorphan (DXM). DXM is the safe and effective active ingredient found in many over-the-counter cough and cold medicines, but it is also being increasingly abused by teenagers in its unfinished form. DXM has been blamed in the deaths of several youths across the country, including two Bellingham, WA teens who purchased DXM over the internet in 2005. - [More](#)

[DXM restriction proposed again](#) – Bellingham Herald

Veterans: Pushing For Care for Gulf War Vets Exposed to Nerve Agent

On Thursday, I joined with Senators Kit Bond (R-MO), and John Rockefeller (D-WV) to call on the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Defense (DoD) to notify and care for Gulf War veterans who may have been exposed to dangerous sarin nerve gas in 1991. Two new DoD and VA funded research studies show a "significant association" between Gulf War illnesses and exposure to sarin.

[Gas May Have Harmed Troops, Scientists Say](#) – New York Times

Budget: Passing a Budget that Invests in America

On Thursday, I helped pass a budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2008 that reverses years of cuts and invests in America's priorities. The budget, which passed the Senate today 52-40, invests in key areas like education, children's healthcare, and veterans healthcare. It also funds my SAFE Ports Act. - [More](#)

Washington's Water Resources: Protecting and Improving our State's Waterways

On Wednesday, I helped pass the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) H.R. 1495*, which addresses critical water resource needs in Washington state. WRDA includes programs that will benefit the economy, public safety, infrastructure and environment of our state. - [More](#)