

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – October 1, 2007

Iraq: Demanding Answers as the Administration Asks for More Funding for Iraq

On Wednesday (9/26), I asked tough questions of Defense Secretary Robert Gates during a hearing to review the Bush Administration's request for more than \$189 billion for the War in Iraq. I pressed the Secretary on the lack of political reconciliation in Iraq, the incredible amount of funding we have spent there while our own infrastructure crumbles and the Defense Department's shortcomings in providing the care our veterans deserve. I remain committed to redeploying our troops in Iraq, investing in our needs here at home, and ensuring our veterans receive top notch care.

[Details](#)

[Listen](#) to my questioning of Defense Secretary Gates.

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Northern Border: Vulnerability Depicted in Frightening Study is Unacceptable

On Thursday (9/27), the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that described how easily dangerous materials can be transported over our northern border. The report describes how GAO investigators transferred dummy materials across border lines in unmonitored areas with little difficulty. Ten years after a terrorist was caught sneaking explosives across the northern border and six years after 9/11, we can't accept this level of vulnerability. I have worked to call national attention to this problem and have secured millions in federal funding for our state to address this serious issue. Clearly, more must be done and I plan to continue to work with our northern border communities to ensure our safety.

[Details](#)

[Read](#) the report

["Tests reveal weakness at Canadian border"](#) – The Bellingham Herald

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Veterans: Shining Light on the Lingering Health Problems of Gulf War Veterans

On Tuesday (9/25), I helped lead an important Senate Veterans' Affairs' (VA) Committee hearing on Gulf War veterans' illness. I requested the hearing in order to focus attention on an often overlooked group of veterans who are struggling with a multi-symptom illness that stems from their service in the 1991 Gulf War. Among the witnesses who testified was Julie Mock, a Washington state veteran and the President of the Veterans of Modern Warfare. Julie provided poignant and personal testimony on her and her family's struggles with Gulf War Illness.

[Read](#) Julie's testimony

[Details](#)

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Emergency Contraception: Raising Awareness to Protect Women

On Thursday, I introduced legislation to raise awareness about the availability of emergency contraception. Emergency contraception is a concentrated dose of ordinary birth control that can dramatically reduce a woman's chance of becoming pregnant. Emergency contraception does not cause abortion; rather it prevents pregnancy by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization, or implantation before a pregnancy occurs. Currently, 1 in 3 women are unaware of the availability of emergency contraception. By raising awareness we will help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unintended pregnancies and decrease the number of abortions.

[Details](#)

["Murray-Clinton bill requires women be told of 'morning after' pill"](#) – The Columbian

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Veterans: Giving our Veterans the Runaround Must End

On Wednesday (9/26), I was angered by a GAO study that showed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been unable to reduce staggeringly long waiting lines for disability payments and continues to struggle to provide personalized care and screening for wounds such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I am urging Republicans in Congress to help move Wounded Warriors legislation which provides solutions to many of the challenges facing our veterans forward to the President.

[Details](#)

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