

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

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – May 11, 2007**

## **Iraq: Getting Answers on Iraq and the Care of our Wounded Warriors**

On Wednesday, I questioned Defense Secretary Robert Gates on the training of Iraqi security forces, the lack of progress on meeting political benchmarks, and the need to end the stigma surrounding mental health care in the military. [More](#) | [Watch](#)

## **Port Security: More Than \$18 Million in Critical Safety Grants**

On Wednesday, I was pleased to announce that I had helped acquire \$18,269,051 for ports across Washington state. The funds will go toward infrastructure security improvements including chemical detectors, cameras, security gates, access controls, and training and exercises. The funding will go to ports in Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, WA, Longview, and Grays Harbor. [More](#)

['Port of Seattle to receive \\$5.3 million in federal security grants'](#) – Seattle PI

## **Drug Safety: Voting to Re-establish the FDA as the Gold Standard in Drug Safety**

On Wednesday, I voted to make major improvements to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by approving S.1082, the FDA Revitalization Act. The bill takes critical steps to improve FDA drug safety, transparency, pediatric pharmaceuticals, and ensures a timely drug review process. [More](#)

## **Veterans: Working to Expand Benefits; Questioning Controversial VA Bonuses**

On Wednesday, I worked to expand and improve benefits for America's veterans and questioned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials on controversial bonuses that were paid out while veterans face long delays in receiving benefits. [More](#)

['Veterans secretary promises improved care'](#) - AP

[Read](#) my latest veterans update

Sign up to receive my veterans updates [here](#).

## **Education: Government Findings Show Necessity of My PASS Act**

On Wednesday, the federal government released new data which shows that the nation's high school dropout rate is higher and less accurately documented than previously reported. The findings lend support to a bill I introduced that would help more students graduate and would help states more accurately measure student graduation rates. [More](#)

[Read](#) more about my PASS Act.

Sign up for my education updates [here](#).

## **Airport Safety: Modernizing the FAA; Examining Sea-Tac Concerns**

On Thursday, I chaired a hearing to explore the FAA's troubled efforts to modernize its air traffic control system while ensuring aviation safety. The hearing focused on whether the agency's inspection staff is adequately manned, trained, and deployed to address new concerns. I also raised the issue of persistent problems with Sea-Tac Airport's runway safety technology. [More](#)

## **Lupus: Strengthening America's Commitment to Understanding and Treating Lupus**

On Thursday – World Lupus Day, I introduced a bipartisan bill to improve lupus research, education, awareness, and treatment. [More](#)

## **Wenatchee: Honoring Local Veteran: Bud Link**

On Wednesday, I joined with Congressman Doc Hastings to introduce legislation to name the soon-to-be-opened VA Community Outpatient Clinic in Wenatchee after Elwood "Bud" Link. [More](#)