

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – October 22, 2007

Law Enforcement: Investing in the Safety of Our Communities, Opposing Bush Cuts

On Tuesday (10/16), I helped pass a Senate bill that funds many of the critical law enforcement, justice and commerce programs our state and local communities rely on. The bill contains funding for community policing programs, gang violence prevention, a new northern border prosecution initiative, meth enforcement and rehabilitation efforts, and salmon restoration. President Bush has threatened to veto the bill - saying that it spends too much on our domestic needs - even as he requests and additional \$190 billion for the War in Iraq.

[Read/listen](#) to a speech I delivered on the Senate floor on the importance of this bill to our state.

Read more about the critical projects included in this bill in your area by clicking on any of the links below:

[Pierce County – Emergency Communications](#)

[Yakima – Increased Police Presence](#)

[Pierce County – National Meth Center](#)

[Statewide – Fighting Meth](#)

[Whatcom County – Northern Border Prosecution](#)

[Statewide – Salmon Restoration](#)

[Northwest Washington – Marine Habitat Restoration](#)

[Bellevue – Emergency 911 Center](#)

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Children's Health Insurance: The Fight to Provide Millions of Kids with Care Will Go On

On Thursday (10/18), the House of Representatives failed to override President Bush's veto of the bi-partisan State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill which would provide health care for over 4 million more children. While this vote is an obstacle to moving forward with the expansion of SCHIP, Democrats and a bipartisan majority in the Senate will continue to fight for this bill because we know it is the right thing to do for our children and for our future. - [Details](#)

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Women's Health: Opposing Ideological Administration Choice for Family Planning Post

On Thursday (10/18), I joined with my colleagues Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) in leading opposition to the Bush Administration's choice for the position of Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Dr. Susan Orr. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs oversees program that fund low-cost family planning and health screening services for millions of low-income and uninsured Americans. Dr. Orr has been a vocal opponent of contraception equity, while often urging the Administration to put personal beliefs before facts. - [Details](#)

["Family-Planning Appointment Denounced"](#) – AP

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Labor: Updating the Unemployment Insurance System So that Workers Aren't Left Behind

Recently, I joined with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to sponsor the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2007 which encourages states to update their Unemployment Insurance (UI) Systems. The bill ensures a more family friendly UI system and encourages better job training benefits among other much needed reforms. - [Details](#)

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AROUND THE STATE

Improving our Health Care Workforce

Two weeks ago, I spent the Senate recess touring the state discussing many of our most pressing needs. In Vancouver, Tacoma, and Spokane I held roundtable discussions on a very important topic - shortages in the healthcare workforce. In each community I convened a panel of leaders from the healthcare and workforce development sectors to discuss the workforce challenges facing the healthcare industry.

["Panel tells Murray that area needs health care workers"](#) – The (Vancouver) Columbian