

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

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington - February 11, 2008**

## **Economy: Stimulus Plan that Includes More Americans Passes Senate**

Last Thursday (2/7), I worked to help pass an economic stimulus bill that can help jumpstart our economy. The Senate plan that I worked to help pass includes rebate checks for disabled veterans and seniors that rely on social security. I am very encouraged that we were able to pass a package that will get checks to more struggling Americans in a timely manner. The President is expected to sign the stimulus plan into law on Wednesday (2/13).

[Details](#)

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## **President's Budget: Bad for our Nation, Bad for our Economy, Bad for Washington State**

Last Monday (2/4) President Bush unveiled his budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The President's budget contains painful cuts to programs that Washington state residents rely on, that help the economy grow, and that keep us safe.

[My Response](#) to the President's Budget

[Details](#) about the cuts to Washington state priorities

[Video](#) – I discuss the Bush Budget

### **Emergency Responders – Funding that Helps Prepare for the Worst Cut**

Among the most painful cuts President Bush laid out in his budget were cuts to emergency preparedness grants. I have sat down with emergency responders from throughout our state who have told me that they rely on these grants to train and prepare for situations that threaten our roads, homes and communities. In fact, emergency responders in Grays Harbor recently told me that the emergency responder grants that the President is seeking to cut helped them prepare for the flooding that devastated our region in December. I wrote President Bush to warn against cutting this funding in December.

[Read More](#)

### **Hanford Cleanup – Budget Sends Mixed Signals on Commitment to Hanford Cleanup**

The President's budget also contains an overall cut to Hanford cleanup programs. Instead of sending the critical dollars needed to meet our federal commitment to Hanford cleanup, the President's budget sends mixed messages. This President's budget ensures the government will not meet milestones for clean up and under-funds contracts that will cost local jobs.

[Video](#) – I discuss Hanford Cuts

["Hanford jobs could get axe under budget"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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## **Student Loan Scandal: Administration Still Doesn't Get It**

Last week, the Bush administration allowed certain student lenders to resume receiving money from a highly controversial loan program that has been exploited to allow lenders to reap millions in overpayments. The loan program, know as the "9.5 percent" loan, has allowed lenders to make inflated profit on the backs of taxpayers.

[Details](#)

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