

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

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – October 10, 2007**

## **Asbestos: After Six Long Years, My Bill to Ban Asbestos Passes Senate!!**

On Thursday (10/04), The Senate unanimously passed my bill to ban asbestos. This is a monumental step in my six year effort to protect families and workers from the harmful effects of asbestos. This bill will help people understand asbestos, take it off the shelves and ensure we continue to study and treat the health effects asbestos has already caused. - [Details](#)

["Senate passes Murray bill to ban asbestos"](#) – Seattle PI

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## **Children's Health Insurance: Bush Vetoes Children's Health Insurance Bill**

On Wednesday (10/03), I was angered that President Bush denied nearly four million American children the health care that was within their grasp by vetoing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This bill expanded a highly successful program to include the children of middle class families that can't afford care. This President has long shown that he is out of step with middle class families, but Wednesday he used his veto pen to prove it. - [Details](#)

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## **Class Sizes: Delivering Funding to Ensure Smaller Classes**

On Monday (10/01), I introduced the Facilitating Outstanding Classrooms Using Size reduction (FOCUS) Act, which will deliver \$2 billion in funding to make America's classrooms less crowded. The FOCUS Act builds upon previous successful class size reduction initiatives by providing the funding needed to hire new teachers and to create a continuum of small classes for students from Kindergarten through third grade and beyond. - [Details](#)

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## **FBI: Working to Increase the Federal Law Enforcement Presence in Our State**

On Thursday (10/01), I included an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill that mandates the FBI to study where they are currently placing their agents, analysts, and other personnel. My amendment comes after reports have shown that our state's FBI agent levels are dangerously low.

["Bid to strengthen FBI in Northwest gains ground"](#) - Seattle PI

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## **Northern Border: Helping Protect the Border with Canada**

On Thursday (10/04), I included an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill that establishes the Northern Border Prosecution Initiative to protect Washington state's border with Canada. The Northern Border Prosecution Initiative provides \$20 million to help pay for jail costs, prosecutors and judges. - [Details](#)

["Senate to OK law enforcement funds"](#) – Bellingham Herald

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## **Defense: \$50 Million in Job-Creating Defense Contracts Approved**

On Wednesday (10/03), I helped pass the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriations bill which includes \$50 million in federal defense work for Washington state companies. The money will create jobs at home and help save lives abroad. - [Details](#)

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## **Mine Safety: Working to Help Miners' Families After Accidents**

On Tuesday (10/02), I introduced legislation that will help ensure that families of miners are provided with timely and accurate information when their loved ones are involved in a mine accident. The legislation follows high profile accidents in Sago, West Virginia and Crandall Canyon, Utah, in which inaccurate and inconsistent information compounded family tragedies. - [Details](#)

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## **Veterans: Expanding Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Vets**

On Monday (10/01), I helped pass an amendment to the 2008 Defense Authorization bill that would expand a program that fast tracks veterans' disability benefits to include National Guard and Reserve members. The amendment calls for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to present a plan to expand the successful Benefits Delivery Discharge (BDD) program to National Guard and Reserve members. - [Details](#)

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