

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – December 17, 2007

Victory: Historic Partnership Produces Help for our Wounded Warriors

On Friday (12/14), the U.S. Senate passed the Wounded Warriors bill which addresses the poor conditions and bureaucratic red tape some service members have seen as they return home. The bill, which I helped produce by building partnerships among Committees and Senators, is a great step forward in bringing about the changes we desperately need. The Wounded Warriors legislation was included as part of the 2008 Defense Authorization bill. - [Details](#)

[Video](#) - How this will help our service members.

["Senate passes legislation to improve care for soldiers"](#) – Seattle Times

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Agriculture: Best Farm Bill for Washington State in Years Passes Senate

On Friday (12/14), the Senate passed the 2007 Farm Bill which will provide support for Washington state farmers. This Farm Bill is particularly beneficial to our state because it includes substantial funding to help farmers who grow fruits and vegetables – which are referred to in the bill as specialty crops. Washington ranks third in the nation for specialty crop production overall. - [Details](#)

[Video](#) - How this Farm Bill will help our state

YAKIMA/TRI-CITIES – I also helped include \$15 million for struggling asparagus farmers in the Farm Bill.

[Details](#)

["Votes by Sens. Murray, Cantwell aid asparagus farmers"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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Veterans: New VA Secretary Confirmed

On Friday (12/14), I voted to support the nomination of General Jame Peake as the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). General Peake has pledged to stand up for the needs of veterans above the political needs of the White House. I will work to ensure that he stays true to that pledge and to make sure he brings about the changes our veterans deserve. - [Details](#)

[Video](#) - Discussing my vote

["Peake Confirmed As VA Secretary"](#) – Associated Press

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Environment/Energy: New Bill Will Promote Green Energy Projects on College Campuses

On Tuesday (12/11), I introduced a bill to help develop and stimulate energy programs that are sustainable and environmentally-friendly. The bill, the Higher Education Sustainability Act of 2007, will provide funding to colleges and groups partnering with colleges for green energy activities. - [Details](#)

[Video](#) - Discussing my new bill

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Housing: Getting the Federal Government to Step-Up as a Responsible Mortgage Lender

On Friday (12/14), I supported legislation that will give more Americans access to affordable mortgages through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). As the subprime mortgage crises continues to leave families without homes, this bill is a step forward in providing low and moderate-income residents with an affordable alternative to subprime loans. - [Details](#)

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Labor: Hearing Examines Bush Administrations

On Thursday (12/13), the Committee I chair on Employment and Workplace Safety held a joint hearing to examine the Bush National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Under this administration, the NLRB has made it even more difficult for workers to join unions and bargain for better employment terms and less costly for employers to break the law and fire workers who want a union. - [Details](#)

["Democrats Say NLRB Majority Anti-Union"](#) – Associated Press

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