

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – September 5, 2003

HELPING NEEDY STUDENTS

This week, children across our state and nation returned to school. Next week, the United States Senate will make a decision that will impact the opportunities available to our most vulnerable students.

Like many parents and educators, I am frustrated that the President and Congress have not lived up to the funding promises made in the No Child Left Behind Act.

This shortfall is particularly bad for the low-income children who rely on Title I programs. It's estimated that there are 9 million needy children in America. For many of them, education is the only way out of poverty. Title I provides before and after school help, tutoring, mentoring, and other critical services.

Unfortunately, the President's budget for Title I would only help 4.1 of the 9 million needy students in America. We must do better, and we must provide the federal funding promised in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Next week, the Senate will vote on an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) to increase funding for Title I. The Byrd Amendment would provide funding to help an additional 2.1 million needy children. On Wednesday, I spoke in favor of the Byrd Amendment, and I will vote for it on Tuesday.

Watch My Speech: <http://murray.senate.gov/video>

FUNDING WASHINGTON'S TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

As ranking member of the Senate Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, I am proud to announce millions of dollars in federal funding for Washington's transportation priorities. The funding will address critical infrastructure needs throughout our state including roads, buses, trails, bridges, airports and transit facilities.

In addition to the funds that I earmarked specifically for projects from Blaine to Spokane and from Vancouver to Walla Walla, in 2004 Washington state will also receive:

- \$542,767,926 in Federal Highway Administration grants
- \$101,731,719 in Federal Transit Administration grants.

I am proud to have helped secure these critical federal dollars for transportation projects throughout our state. By investing in our transportation infrastructure, we are creating good-paying construction jobs today and paving the way for future economic growth. Our region is facing tough times, and these dollars will help improve our quality of life and restart our economy.

Here are just a few of the 86 projects that received funding. For a full list please visit: <http://murray.senate.gov>

- Intermodal Transload Facility, Quincy \$2 million
- Yakima Air Traffic Safety Upgrades \$72,200
- Yakima Grade Separations \$1 million
- U.S. 395, North Spokane Corridor \$1 million

- SR 31, All Weather Roadway Construction and Widening (Pend Oreille County) \$1.6 million
- Island Transit Buses \$1.094 million
- I-5 Second Street Bridge, Mt. Vernon \$3 million
- Kitsap Transit, Marina Expansion & Kitsap Transit Passenger Ferry Terminal \$3 million
- Everett, Air Traffic Control Tower \$2 million
- Seattle, Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall \$1 million
- SeaTac, Air Traffic Control Tower \$2 million
- Lexington Bridge Project, Cowlitz County \$1.5 million
- WSU Infrastructure Renewal Research \$1.5 million
- Pierce Transit Clean Bus Initiative \$1 million
- Vancouver, I-5 Pedestrian Bridge \$500,000
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Access Road \$2.3 million
- Skokomish Tribe Road Improvements \$1.3 million
- Port Townsend Jefferson Transit Maintenance \$1 million

STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

Today our nation faces both a job crisis and a skills crisis. Over 9 million Americans are searching for jobs and another 5 million more are working part-time because they can't find full-time work. In an effort to help get these unemployed Americans back to work, I offered an amendment on the Senate floor on Thursday to expand worker training opportunities for more than 200,000 more adults, youth and dislocated workers – including vulnerable populations like migrant and seasonal farm workers and Native Americans.

Displaced workers need training and skills to get good jobs that will last. Last month, I visited two one-stop employment centers in Tacoma and Moses Lake. America's one-stop employment centers are being asked to serve more people than ever before, but their funding remains below what it was a few years ago when our economy was stronger. My amendment would also expand funding for one-stop employment training centers.

Unfortunately, my amendment lost in the Senate 46-49. Despite the defeat, I will continue to work with my colleagues to increase opportunities for unemployed workers.

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FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

On Thursday, I announced millions of dollars for community and environmental initiatives in our state. I secured the funding in two Senate Appropriations bills: VA-HUD (Veterans Administration; Department of Housing and Urban Development) and CJSJ (Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary). Here are just a few of the projects that received funding, for a full list please visit: <http://murray.senate.gov>

- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery, Statewide \$90 million
- Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center, Prosser \$250,000
- Okanogan County Incubator Project \$250,000
- Northwest Straits Commission \$1.2 million
- West Central Community Center, Spokane \$500,000
- Wellpinit School District \$1 million
- Sunnyside Wastewater Plant \$1 million
- Maury Island Land Conservation \$2 million
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission \$350,000
- Columbia Basin Groundwater Management \$500,000

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