

# **PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW**

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – July 29, 2008**

## **America Needs Real Energy Solutions**

Like so many of our state's residents, I am tired of pulling up to the pump in our state and paying well over \$4.00 a gallon to fill up the tank. Just a year ago, who could have imagined that gas prices would be so high or that Washington state families would be struggling just to afford their commute?

While we all know there is no silver bullet solution to these record high prices, there are some short-term solutions that we can take to reduce oil prices now. Recently, I delivered a [radio address](#) that outlined some of the short and long-term solutions to this crisis.

["Murray says Bush, GOP block energy solutions"](#) – Associated Press

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## **Veterans Suicides: Spokane Tragedies Reinforce Need to Improve Outreach**

Last Tuesday (7/22), I delivered a speech on the Senate floor to raise awareness about the disturbing increase in the number of suicides by troops and veterans and the need to improve mental health care offered by military and VA facilities. The speech came after tragic stories of [veterans suicides in Spokane](#) and after the tragic death of [Joseph Dwyer](#) – an Army medic made famous in a photo taken during the first week of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In the speech, I called for an increase in resources to boost outreach, breakdown barriers to care, and ensure that veterans are not turned away when they seek mental health care at VA facilities.

["Spokesman-Review' Probes Another Vet Suicide"](#) – Editor and Publisher

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## **B Reactor: Preservation of Manhattan Project Landmark Moves Forward**

Last Tuesday (7/22), I applauded the National Park System Advisory Board's decision to designate the Hanford Nuclear Reservation's B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark. The Board's decision is another critical step toward preserving the first ever full-scale nuclear reactor. Preserving the B Reactor will give future generations a chance to learn about the important contribution the Tri-Cities region made to the World War II effort and provide new economic opportunity in the region. - [Details](#)

["Hanford's B Reactor closer to national icon status"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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## **Women's Health: Administration Attempts to Undermine Access to Critical Family Planning Options**

Last Wednesday (7/23), I led a group of 28 Senators in writing to Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt to urge him to drop a draft regulation which could deny access to critical family planning options to millions of American women. The draft rule, which surfaced recently in news reports, aims to change the definition of abortion to include all contraceptives and therefore allow health care providers and corporations to refuse to provide family planning. - [Details](#)

["Family Planning: Striking Plan B"](#) – Seattle PI

## **OTHER NEWS:**

**Housing:** [Passage of housing package means help is on the way for struggling homeowners](#)

**Security:** Homeland Security and Nonprofit Security Grants to help state remain vigilant against threats - [\\$32 million for Homeland Security](#) – [\\$295,000 for Non-Profit](#)

**Worker Safety:** [A call to protect workers after crane and construction site tragedies](#)

**Sound Transit:** [Voters to get a voice in deciding transit future](#)

**Iran:** [A call for more diplomacy with the Iranian people](#)