

# PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – June 8, 2009

## HEALTH CARE: The Rallying Cry for Quality, Affordable Care is Loud and Clear

Last Friday, I spoke at a rally in Pratt Park in Seattle to discuss moving forward with health care reform in Congress that will help ensure that all Americans have access to quality and affordable coverage. I told the crowd that health care should be a right for all Americans and not a privilege for some.



Later in the week, I joined with Washington state small business owners who are currently working to provide their employees with health care coverage but are struggling because of the skyrocketing cost of care. I discussed with them how health care reform efforts will help lower health care costs and ease the economic burden that is currently being placed on them.

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## SUPREME COURT: Meeting With Judge Sotomayor



On Wednesday, I met with U.S. Appeals Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor to discuss her nomination to the Supreme Court. Judge Sotomayor's life story is the embodiment of the American Dream and I believe that her nomination will be an inspiration to many Americans. I look forward to considering her nomination in the Senate. – [Details](#)

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## TANKERS: Getting a Commitment to a Fair and Open Competition

Last week, I questioned leaders from the Air Force on the need for a fair and transparent process in the upcoming competition to purchase aerial refueling tankers. I received a commitment from Air Force Secretary Michael Donley to move forward with a "fair and open" process as well as assurances that the Air Force remains opposed to splitting the tanker contract. – [Details](#)

[WATCH](#) the hearing | [LISTEN](#) to my Q & A Secretary Donley and General Schwartz

["AF Secretary: Split tanker contract 'would not make sense'"](#) – The Everett Herald

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## EDUCATION: Secretary Duncan Calls Job Skills Efforts "Hugely Important"

Last Wednesday, I questioned Education Secretary Arne Duncan about the need to build local partnerships between schools, colleges, businesses, and others to get our young people the skills needed to access 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs. In my questioning, I focused on the skill gaps that I hear about from Washington state employers, and he agreed with me that the efforts to fill such gaps are "hugely important." I also discussed my [Innovations to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Careers](#) bill that will help our young people get the skills they need to compete for family-wage jobs. – [Details](#)

[WATCH](#) the hearing | [LISTEN](#) to my opening statement | [LISTEN](#) to my Q & A with Secretary Duncan

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## CONGRATULATING THE UW WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM!!

Last week the University of Washington women's softball team won their first-ever national championship. Following their historic win, I introduced a resolution in the Senate to congratulate the Huskies on their hard-earned victory. – [Details](#)

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## RECOVERY: Tracking our State's Funding

So far, Washington state has received more than \$2.2 billion in funding from the Economic Recovery Act. Last week I announced additional funding for programs in our state. Click on the links below to learn more about these programs.

[Improving Water Quality](#)

[Accelerating Mass Transit](#)

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