

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – May 19, 2006

Immigration Debate Continues

On Monday, President Bush outlined a plan for immigration reform that includes the deployment of National Guard troops to the southern border. This week in the Senate we've continued to debate the immigration bill. I believe that immigration reform is critical to our economy, our security and our sense of self as a nation. This debate is about the type of country we want to be, what we stand for, and what type of future we all want to build. We need to embrace a plan that finds intelligent solutions.

National Guard at the Border

However, a plan that requires our valuable National Guard members to be further extended may not be the answer. Since September 11th, our National Guard members have been asked to tackle many difficult challenges on behalf of our nation. They have answered the call with professionalism and honor time and again. But, I remain concerned that calling in the National Guard is this Administration's answer to almost everything – from Iraq and Afghanistan to Hurricane Katrina, and now to combat illegal immigration. And, all the while, this Administration has consistently failed to provide the resources necessary for these brave men and women to be properly equipped for their missions.

Using National Guard forces to assist with border security is not a long term solution to this problem. We need a real, comprehensive, immigration and border security solution – not another band-aid to get us through the rest of President Bush's term.

Northern Border: Senate Bill Would Delay PASS System

This week the Senate passed an amendment which I co-sponsored that would delay implementation of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) passport requirements by 17 months. I have repeatedly urged the Bush Administration to delay this passport requirement, and I am glad that we are making progress to do so in the Senate.

WHTI requires people crossing the border into the United States to show a passport or other approved document starting December 31, 2006 for passengers entering the U.S. by air or sea, and by December 31, 2007 for land border crossings.

I am pushing for a delayed implementation so that the steps we take will actually improve security with minimal delays and burdens for citizens and commerce. On March 24th, Representative Rick Larsen and I spoke to Northern Border communities who expressed the very real concern that the new rules could hurt state commerce without actually improving security. We need to ensure that federal agencies are prepared to implement this program with minimal disruption to commerce, tourism and travel.

Fighting Airbus Subsidies

This week we learned that Airbus may seek further government loans to bail out its faltering A350 line of planes. I continue to speak out against illegal subsidies from European governments to Airbus. Despite Airbus' status as the current leading manufacturer of large civil aircraft with more than fifty percent of the market share, the company continues to receive market distorting subsidies. Their unfair

trade practices are undermining the U.S. aerospace industry and costing American jobs.

This latest attempt at gaining an illegal leg up, concerns the twin-engine A350 which Airbus designed to be a direct competitor with Boeing's 787 "Dreamliner." The Boeing 787, which has been very popular since its inception, is rewarding American workers with three times more orders than the Airbus A350. Our workers have made sacrifices to design a plane that customers wanted while the Europeans are looking to once again rely on subsidies and unfair advantages.

I have fought this fight before, and I will continue to advocate for the American worker. In April of 2005, I joined with my colleagues Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Harry Reid (D-NV) and Bill Frist (R-TN) to introduce a resolution that called on European governments to reject launch aid for Airbus and support the President's authority to take any action necessary to protect American aerospace jobs. The Senate passed the resolution by a vote of 96-0. I will continue to work with the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to level the playing field and make Europe play by the rules.

USTR: Last week, I sat down with Susan Schwab, who has been nominated to be the new U.S. Trade Representative to discuss our efforts to fight Airbus' illegal subsidies.

About our meeting:

<http://murray.senate.gov/photos/display.cfm?id=255539>

To receive Aerospace Updates from Senator Murray visit:

<http://murray.senate.gov/aeroupdates/index.cfm>

Mine Safety Legislation Introduced

Mine safety legislation that I co-sponsored was introduced and passed committee this week. The legislation is in response to the horror of the Sago, WV mine tragedy and other mining accidents we witnessed in the past year. Our bill moves mine safety into the 21st century with new technology, oversight and enforcement tools to keep our miners safe.

Ryan White Care Act Moves Forward

On Thursday, the Senate HELP Committee reauthorized the Ryan White Care Act (RWCA). I used my position on the Committee to keep many destructive proposals out of the reauthorization and to advocate for increased funding for RWCA programs. While I have concerns with some parts of this bill, particularly some of the funding formulas, I am pleased that we are moving forward with a bipartisan proposal to reauthorize the Ryan White Care Act. Only by updating the law can we ensure continued funding and strengthen critical programs to address the changing face of the epidemic.

Today, all across Washington state we have so many people that are living proof that these efforts worked. I have met with AIDS and HIV patients who have been living productive, meaningful lives for 10, 15 years. I have seen AIDS move from a terminal disease to a chronic disease with a real quality of life. I have seen Ryan White programs work in communities large and small, in the inner city and in small rural communities. This is the genius of Ryan White programs.

As this bill moves to the full Senate, I will work to make sure we protect existing programs and services that provide a lifeline for thousands of AIDS/HIV patients and their families in WA State.

To read more about the RWCA visit:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=255880>

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