

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – July 19, 2007

After All-Night Session, Senate Republicans Block Vote to Redeploy Troops in Iraq

Today, after an all-night session of the U.S. Senate, during which I joined with my Democratic colleagues to push for a vote on a measure to redeploy U.S. forces in Iraq, Senate Republicans blocked the Senate from voting. The Senate was considering the Levin-Reed amendment that would redeploy U.S. forces in Iraq by April 30th, 2008. The amendment was blocked by a vote of 52-47. Under Senate rules, 60 votes would have been necessary to move forward to a vote. Prior to the vote, I offered a statement urging my fellow Senators to redeploy our troops. - [Read my statement](#)

Military: Voting to give our Service Members the Time Off they Deserve

On Tuesday, I stood up for our state's service members and their families by voting to give them a sensible amount of leave time between deployments and to improve the readiness of our military. Unfortunately, this common-sense, family-friendly effort fell victim to politics. Senate Republicans, at the urging of the Bush Administration, defeated the effort. I remain committed to providing our state's active duty military, National Guard, and Reserve members with the time off they need to reconnect with loved ones, hold down jobs, and provide for the emergency services our state requires.

[Details](#)

[Read the speech I delivered in support of this effort](#)

Surgeon General: Ensuring All Americans can rely on the "Nation's Doctor"

On Thursday, I questioned Dr. James Holsinger, the President's nominee to be the next Surgeon General at a Senate confirmation hearing. The hearing came two days after three former Surgeons General testified about political interference. The most recent Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona, told a House committee that Bush Administration officials censored him, edited his speeches, and interfered with his ability to provide independent medical advice to the public. - [Details](#)

[Listen to my questioning](#)

Veterans

A New Commitment to Wounded Warriors Included in Senate Bill

On Thursday, a landmark bill that I helped to author that recognizes our service members as a cost of war, helps to reduce red tape, and gives veterans the support they need was included in the 2008 Department of Defense (DoD) authorization bill. - [Details](#)

[Watch my Speech in Support of the Wounded Warriors Bill](#)

Reviewing Personality Disorder Discharges

Recently concerns have been raised that service members who have PTSD and TBI are being inappropriately discharged by the Pentagon with a "personality disorder". This leaves them without the benefits and medical care they deserve. Last week, I helped introduce an amendment that will suspend this practice until it can be reviewed. - [Details](#)

Veterans Join My Staff

Last week, I was pleased to announce that I have hired two veterans to key staff positions in my state offices. - [Details](#)

Investing in Washington State's Transportation and Housing Infrastructure

Last week, I helped pass a \$104.6 billion Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill through the THUD Subcommittee, which I chair. The bill, which also passed the full Appropriations Committee on Thursday, makes key investments in the nation's highway systems, addresses aviation needs, secures the nation's pipelines and railways, and provides housing services for those in need, the elderly, and veterans. In the bill, I was able to add substantial funding for Washington State's transportation and housing needs.

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