

# ***PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW***

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – January 12, 2009

## **FLOODING: Touring Flooded Western Washington Communities, Working to Secure Emergency Funding**

This week communities throughout Western Washington were devastated by record-level flooding. On Friday, I took tours with officials in a number of communities to survey the damage to homes, roads, and businesses. I spoke with families in Orting who lost their homes and saw farms and roads that have been washed away in Chehalis and Centralia. I also invited the federal Transportation Secretary out to Washington state, where she announced \$2 million in emergency federal funding to clear debris and get our state's roads and highways up and running. I will continue to fight for federal funding to help get our state's families back on their feet.

["Sen. Murray tours county's flood damage"](#) – Everett Herald

["\\$2 million federal downpayment for flood damage"](#) – Seattle Times

## **CRITICAL FLOOD RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

I have included valuable contact information and resources on my website for Washington residents affected by last week's devastating storms. The information includes contacts for county emergency management offices, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommended flooding websites and information on where to report storm damages. - [VISIT NOW](#)

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## **GANGS: Working to Support Intervention Programs and Make our Streets Safer**

This week, I co-sponsored major legislation in the new Congress to combat gang violence in our state and nation. The bill, the Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2009, authorizes over \$1 billion in federal funding for areas hard-hit by gang violence. The resources included in the bill can be used for law enforcement efforts, prevention programs, and to target at-risk youth for gang intervention efforts. - [Details](#)

["Sen. Murray co-sponsors anti-gang legislation"](#) – Yakima Herald

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## **HEALTH CARE: Putting our State's Health Care Concerns Front and Center During Daschle Confirmation Hearing**

On Thursday, I discussed critical shortages of health care workers and our state's difficulties getting adequate Medicare reimbursements during Senator Tom Daschle's confirmation hearing to become the next Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). If confirmed, I will work with Senator Daschle to address many of the pressing health care challenges facing our state. - [Details](#)

[Listen](#) to my discussion with Senator Daschle

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