

# **PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW**

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – April 28, 2010

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## **Wall Street Reform: Priorities for Washington State Families**

On Thursday, I gave a speech on the floor to discuss provisions of financial reform that must be included to help protect Washington families. I believe reform must put an end to taxpayer funded bailouts, provide strong protections for Washington state consumers and make available tools that will help consumers take personal responsibility for their finances. – [Read | Watch](#) my speech.

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## **Supporting our Veterans: Breaking Barriers to Employment**

On Tuesday, I introduced bipartisan legislation to help combat the skyrocketing unemployment rate among veterans. Currently the unemployment rate for young veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan is close to 20 percent. My legislation will help our veterans break down barriers to employment by improving training, skills transition, education, and small business assistance programs. – [Details](#)

["Murray bill targets high joblessness among veterans"](#) – Seattle Times

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## **Caring for our Veterans: Landmark Bill Supporting Women Veterans Passes Congress**

On Friday, my comprehensive bipartisan legislation to prepare the Department of Veterans Affairs to handle the influx of women veterans who will need care in the coming years passed the Senate and House of Representatives. The Women Veterans Health Improvement Act of 2009 will address the unique needs of our women veterans, especially those returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. – [Details](#)

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## **Budget: Securing Funds for Washington's Priorities**

As a senior member of the Senate Budget Committee, I was able to secure money for key Washington state priorities in the 2011 budget resolution that passed the Committee on Friday. In particular, the budget resolution increases Emergency Management funding at Hanford and increases Army Corps of Engineers funding to help repair the Howard Hanson Dam. – [Details](#)

Also last week, I joined other members of the Washington state delegation in sending a [letter](#) to the Army Corps of Engineers urging them to make unused funding available for short term fixes to protect the tens of thousands of residents and 95,000 jobs of the Green River Valley from catastrophic flooding while permanent fixes to the Howard Hanson Dam are underway.

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## **Remembering the Tragedy at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes**

On Thursday, Senator Cantwell and I introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate expressing the Senate's condolences for the family, loved ones, Steelworkers, fellow workers, and the Anacortes community after the tragedy at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington. I also joined those families at a very emotional memorial service in Anacortes on Sunday. – [Details](#)

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## **Women's Sports: Ensuring Equality**

On Thursday, I applauded the Department of Education's decision to repeal the a Title IX policy that allowed schools to potentially understate the interest in women's athletics and provide fewer resources to female athletes than they do to male athletes. With the repeal of this policy, schools and colleges must now provide stronger evidence that they offer equal opportunities for athletic participation under the federal Title IX gender equity law. – [Details](#)

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