

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – October 29, 2007

Health, Education, and Labor: Bush Threatens to Veto Critical Funding for Washington State

On Tuesday (10/23), I helped pass a Senate bill that funds critical health care, education, and labor programs in Washington state. Specifically, the bill included funding for job training, technical and career education programs, early childhood education programs including Head Start, research for life saving cancer treatments, school reforms, student support systems, teacher preparation and community health centers. However, even though the bill passed the Senate with broad bi-partisan support, President Bush has threatened to veto it. - [Details](#)

[Read more](#) about the critical projects included in this bill in your area.

MORE ON BUSH'S VETO THREATS: President Bush has either vetoed or is threatening to veto critical domestic spending bills that fund everything from children's health care, to community policing, to homeland security even as he asks for an additional \$200 billion to fund the War in Iraq.

Read a speech I delivered on the Senate floor on the President's misguided veto threats: [Don't Veto America's Future](#)

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DREAM Act: Working to Provide Hope and Opportunity to a New Generation of Americans

On Wednesday (10/24), I spoke out about the importance of the DREAM Act on the Senate floor. The DREAM Act is a narrowly-tailored, bipartisan bill that would give the children of undocumented immigrants who plan to attend college or enter the military a path towards citizenship if they meet certain requirements. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans obstructed the Senate's ability to even debate this important bill. - [Details](#)

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Hanford: Standing Up for Sick Workers

On Tuesday (10/23), I asked tough questions of federal officials during a Senate hearing on concerns that have been raised about the compensation program for sick nuclear workers at Hanford and nuclear sites around the country. Hanford workers made a tremendous sacrifice for our nation and the Federal Government has a moral and legal responsibility to care for them.

[Details](#)

["Murray rips program for ill workers"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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Veterans: Questioning the VA's Top Health Official on the Absence of a VA Secretary

On Wednesday (10/24), I questioned the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (VA) top health official, Dr. Michael Kussman, about why a nominee for VA Secretary has still not been selected by the Bush Administration. - [Details](#)

[Listen](#) to the questioning

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Farm Bill: A Big Victory for Washington State Specialty Crop Growers

On Friday (10/26), I joined with Senator Cantwell to announce important programs for Washington state farmers included in the 2007 Farm Bill. Among other programs, the bill includes strong provisions that will benefit Washington state farmers, who grow more than 250 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops. - [Details](#)

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AROUND THE STATE

SKAMANIA COUNTY

I spent the last Senate recess touring the state discussing many of our most pressing needs. In Stevenson I held a [roundtable discussion](#) with a panel of leaders from Skamania County to hear about their top priorities on topics like transportation, economic development, law enforcement, infrastructure, rural development and other issues.

["Skamania County officials air concerns to Murray"](#) – The (Vancouver) Columbian

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