

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

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – April 27, 2007

## **Voting to Support our Troops, Address Our Nation's Needs, and Provide a New Direction in Iraq**

On Thursday, I voted in favor of an emergency supplemental bill that takes the responsible path forward on many of our nation's most pressing issues. This legislation begins the phased redeployment of our troops in Iraq, provides funding for our troops that are there, funds the needs of our veterans and wounded warriors, makes our homeland more secure, and aids the recovery of hard-hit communities here at home. [More](#)

In the lead up to the vote on the supplemental, I delivered a speech outlining a responsible direction forward in Iraq. [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

## **Safe Workplaces: Investigating OSHA's Inability to Protect American Workers**

On Thursday, I chaired a Senate hearing to examine the shortcomings of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The hearing was the first comprehensive Senate oversight hearing on OSHA under the Bush administration. It also featured testimony from an injured Washington state nurse and experts on worker safety. I questioned the administration's enforcement of regulations and their inability to set new standards. [More](#) | [Watch](#)

## **Veterans: Listening to Heartbreaking Stories of VA Mental Health Care Failures**

On Wednesday, I took part in a Senate hearing on the VA's mental health care programs. The hearing focused on suicide, PTSD, military sexual trauma, and substance abuse. The parents of two service members who say the VA's mental health care system failed their children provided emotional testimony on their children's tragic deaths after returning from Iraq.

[More](#) | [Watch](#) my opening statement | [Listen](#) to the Parent's Testimony | [View](#) a photo from the hearing

## **Economy: Working to Make America's Workers and Economy More Competitive**

On Wednesday, I helped pass a comprehensive bill to make America's workers more competitive by investing in research, innovation, and education. I voted for the "America COMPETES Act," which passed the full Senate. The bill includes my proposal to help schools hire math coaches to improve math education at America's high schools.

[More](#)

## **Education: Pushing for High School Reform at No Child Left Behind Hearing**

On Tuesday, I continued my efforts to provide more federal support for math education, literacy education and graduation planning by speaking out in favor of my [PASS Act](#) (S.611) at a hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. The hearing examined modernizing American High Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. [More](#) | [Listen](#)

## **Tri-Cities Transportation: Ben Franklin Transit Receives More Than \$1 Million**

On Monday, I was happy to announce that the U.S. Department of Transportation released \$1,020,367 in federal funding to modernize and expand the Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) base facility in Richland, WA. I secured that critical funding in the fiscal year 2005 Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. The funding will be used to fund a new maintenance building, administrative building, and bus washing facility. [More](#)

["Money for Ben Franklin Transit"](#) – KNDU (NBC) Tri-Cities