

Notes from Meeting with Sens. Murray and Cantwell's Staffers

November 12th 2019 in Seattle. Notes by Holly Brewer. Errors mine. More at www.SADfor.us

We met with:

Kate Baumgartner, Senator Murray's Seattle Director: Kate_baumgartner@murray.senate.gov

Tommy Bauer, Senator Cantwell's Washington state director: tommy_bauer@cantwell.senate.gov



Latest from Sen. Murray

Senator Murray works hard for **veterans**.

She is the first female chair of the Senate Veteran's Committee. Her father was a Purple Heart recipient and fought in WW2. <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/mobile/biography>

WA got **Federal grants** this month:

\$11.3 m for an airport freight project in Spokane. <https://bit.ly/2qIpR6F>

\$15.5 m to improve Everett waterfront's ability to deal with freight. <https://bit.ly/372Z5GH>

Senator Murray criticized the **unqualified nominees for the Federal Judiciary**. <https://bit.ly/34V1Rfg>
"nothing less is at stake than the integrity of our judicial system and the future of our democracy"

Vaping **non-tobacco flavor e-cigarettes** is a problem. Sen. Murray has joined a letter with other Democratic senators to Azar about this. <https://bit.ly/36TNxpn>

She also joined a letter to JUUL slamming them for profiting from children and getting them addicted. <https://bit.ly/2CFOYKc>

Carson's statement about **trans people** in housing. 'Secretary Carson made derogatory comments about transgender people trying to utilize homeless shelters that align with their gender and, "lamented that society no longer seemed to know the difference between men and women."' <https://bit.ly/2Kg9mpn>
Senator Murray wrote him a letter.

Latest from Sen Cantwell

She opposes **Steve Menashi** for a 2nd circuit judge. He is opposed by most Dems, because of his attack on inclusion and basic civil rights. <https://www.acslaw.org/judicial-nominations/on-the-bench/>

She opposes the **Chad Wolf** nomination as DHS chief. He brought in the family separation policy at the border. <https://n.pr/2QeahKU>

Senator Cantwell is said to be working on **cleanup for Hanford and data privacy laws**. I couldn't find any information at all.

General Questions

Election security - there is \$250m in the Continuing Resolution for funding election security and the funding has no accountability. <https://nyti.ms/32INoll> We want \$600m for it and we want the Senate bill to echo the House wording, to ensure guardrails as to how it is spent.

Sen. Murray is in the appropriations committee and is the 4th most senior person in Congress.

DACA Supreme Court Case.

Today is the first day of the Supreme Court hearings on this administrations' attacks on DACA recipients - and the case will be done in June. We need our senators to be more vocal.

Dems' Press Conference in DC: <https://www.facebook.com/USSenateDemocrats/videos/524187855028406/>

The rally in Seattle after the meeting with the senators' staff: <https://bit.ly/2QeMcnc>

If it is found unconstitutional, it can't be replaced. DACA recipients feel betrayed. Protect the database of information about DACA recipients. How will they respond? Most other senators are more vocal. 86% of the public supports not deporting dreamers, according to a poll of just over 1,000 people.

<https://bit.ly/371Hlf2> Protecting dreamers could make Dems more electable.

The staffers' response: they couldn't get the immigration reform and DACA laws through because McConnell has a stranglehold in the Senate.

Sen. Murray: spoke out on social media



Senator Patty Murray  @PattyMurr... · 7h ✓

Today, #SCOTUS heard oral arguments about President Trump's reckless decision to end #DACA. If he has his way, hundreds of thousands of #Dreamers—including 16K+ in WA—will be forced to leave the only place they've called home. We can't let that happen. #ProtectDreamers

 76

 152

 400



signed a letter with colleagues about protecting DACA recipients' right to travel.

<https://bit.ly/2rGQw4t>

Megan from her office was at the Seattle rally today.

Sen. Cantwell has been pushing on immigration reform and similar for years.

Starting in 2003 they have purportedly reintroduced immigration reform every year.

2 years ago at Bellevue College both senators purportedly made a strong standing on it. I couldn't find it. I did find a video of Sen. Murray talking about what she saw at the detention center in 2018.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10156563288433872>

10/2018, Rep. Smith & Sen Cantwell wrote a letter about solitary confinement at detention centers.

<https://bit.ly/2Kgt1Wa>

The Seattle 6

The Seattle 6 were arrested on August 6 for not leaving Sen. Cantwell's office in the Federal Building in Seattle. More: <https://bit.ly/2CHB4Ha> They visited the office weekly to ask that the senator visit a detention center and have a public forum on how it was and what we can do. She has not responded. The day they were arrested they said they wanted to stay until she responded.

Howard (Of the Seattle Six) said that Tommy made a phone call and had security arrest them. Tommy said that he did not call security and Senator Cantwell's office closed at 5 and they can't have unattended people in the office after that. They waited until 5:15 and then called security. He said that the Seattle Six can talk to FPS about security.

20 hours before their arraignment on October 24th, Sen. Cantwell purportedly sent out an email about immigration to the email list that focuses on immigration. In the email, she said she cosponsored [HR 3401](#) on June 26. In this bill, the Senate stripped out safeguards so that the money could flow where it wants and our senators voted for it. Senators running for president voted against it.

Jan 30th 2020 is the trial of the Seattle Six. FB event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1385143611643766/>

Tommy says Sen Cantwell has visited a detention center to see the conditions there. I can't find it online apart from the video with Senator Murray that I included earlier in this write up.

ICE

ICE is getting money to detain immigrants and refugees in various ways. Those loopholes need to be closed. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/dhs-transferred-169-million-other-programs-ice-migrant-detention-n909016>

According to BusinessInsider, there are around 1500 facilities now.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/ice-immigrant-families-dhs-detention-centers-2018-6>

Most of the facilities are privatized. <https://www.gq.com/story/private-profit-detention-centers> & <https://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/emails-show-how-private-firms-profit-from-ice-detention-centers>

The Budget

The budget for the wall is potentially in the Continuing Resolution, the temporary budget set for the next few months. We want no money for CBP or ICE either. The Continuing Resolution pertains to a number of budget items, and it has to be voted on by 21st or there will be a government shutdown.

The FUTURE Act

This is the bill that Sen Murray is watching the most closely.

[HR 2486](#): Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act.

The House has passed it. <https://hbcubuzz.com/2019/09/house-of-representatives-pass-future-act/>

New Airport & Cruise Terminal in the Sound?

Puget Sound Regional Council may have a comment period / open houses. An airport would be years away. It took years to have third runway at SeaTac. People can weigh in, and state legislature will at the end of the process. The State set up a working group for this consisting of 5 combined counties. If it was built, it would be done by 2040. They got some funding for it from the FAA. We should use Boeing field - but people complained about the noise. Cruise ships would pollute a lot, and that is not a good idea.

WA \$30 Limit on Car Tab

\$30 car tabs is a mess. It'll take a while to figure it out.

Impeachment Trial

Republicans say the impeachment trial will blow away legislation. Mitch McConnell is leaving legislation sitting actually. We don't know how much floor time the trial will take. It may be 6-8 weeks according to a southern senator. They are following the process for rules of impeachment. McConnell is in charge of it.

There were 7 current senators at the last impeachment trial. One was purportedly Senator Murray.

The Politico article said it takes 3 Republican Senators to vote to make the impeachment trial vote secret. <https://bit.ly/2QfBfBE> check it out!

Clothing in Congress

People had questions about Jim Jordan never wearing a jacket in Congress in general.

<https://putthison.com/whats-going-on-with-congressman-jim-jordans-jacket/>

It is mandatory for ladies to wear jackets under some Congressional rulers.

<https://fortune.com/2017/07/07/congress-dress-code/>