

Meeting with Senators' Staffers December 10th 2019

Notes by holly@hollybrewer.com, mistakes mine.

We met with Kate, Kate_baumgartner@murray.senate.gov and Casey, casey_duff@cantwell.senate.gov



Senator Murray

Impeachment

Senator Murray supports the trial on the articles of impeachment. When it comes to impeachment, senators are jurors and have to be impartial. They get sworn in by a justice.

What can we do about the dishonest republicans? Argh!

Sen. Murray will be one of the few senators who has already been through 2 impeachment trials.

Her tweets Dec. 10th:



Senator Patty Murray 
@PattyMurray

I could not agree more with former GOP Senator from WA state, Slade Gorton— every member of Congress has a duty to take the impeachment process seriously, gather all relevant facts, and make a decision that puts country over party.



Opinion | My Fellow Republicans, Please Follow the Facts
nytimes.com



Senator Patty Murray  @PattyMurr... · 8h 

As the House moves forward with articles of impeachment, I hope each elected official approaches our duty focused on what is best for our country & our democracy, regardless of party.

 54

 80

 352



Homeless Veterans

Sen. Murray secured millions of dollars in VASH vouchers

“More than \$2.3 million in funding will go to help veterans who are experiencing homelessness secure permanent housing, connect with VA case managers

WA State Department of Commerce Report: “Although veteran homelessness increased in 14 states between 2016 and 2017, Washington had the largest percentage [increase] of any state – 41 percent”

https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ContentRecord_id=FD32502E-EE3E-47BB-89DB-B6020FE02A75

Bill Tackling Student Homelessness

December 10th, Sen. Murray introduced the AHEAD Act

Cash for kids who are homeless. The program was inspired by local actions.

More: https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ContentRecord_id=3948C00C-9DB6-4FAE-9B3D-FE89BD08A591

Government funding runs out December 20th, so they have to vote on appropriations before then.

Funding for Colleges for People of Color Passed the Senate

The FUTURE Act, led by Sen. Murray, passed the Senate. Funding from it will benefit, amongst many others, the Northwest Indian College, <https://www.nwic.edu/>

Both senators issued an Amicus brief concerning the **Louisiana abortion case** in the Supreme Court, along with multiple colleagues concerned about the Constitutionality of the case.

<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ID=AEE9B4FB-D68B-4C52-9FDE-E3CCA845EE8A>

Senator Cantwell

She supports **impeachment**.

In National Defense Authorization Act, She Got Monitoring of Growler Noise

In the Senate version of the NDAA, Sen. Cantwell secured an amendment to monitor growler noise on Whidbey Island. <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-secures-amendment-to-monitor-noise-of-naval-operations-in-island-county>

Sen. Cantwell is pushing for **online privacy rights**. That is what she is working on the most right now.

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-continues-to-push-for-consumer-privacy-rights-strong-enforcement-provisions-at-commerce-committee-hearing>

General Questions

USMCA

We haven't seen the USMCA (the new version of NAFTA) yet - and so we don't know if it's good and protects workers and the environment. We need to ensure that it does not include ISDS, the tribunal that allows corporations to quash national laws to enrich themselves.

It looks like the vote on that will be in 2020 now.

News about it: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/10/us/politics/usmca-trade-deal.html>

About ISDS: <https://www.iisd.org/library/usmca-investors>

The National Defense Authorization Act

The version as of Tuesday 10th of December is bad – it includes:

- *Funds going towards building the wall (– these are military funds, remember!)
- *Funding for military help in Saudi Arabian attacks on civilians in Yemen
- *No mention of stopping the transgender ban
- *No stopping the Authorized Use of Military Force (AUMF), which passes responsibility of managing the military to the president away from Congress, where it should be.

The Senate Doesn't Get a January

McConnell released a calendar without a January. They are reserving it for the impeachment trial.

<https://theweek.com/speedreads/882311/senate-essentially-cancelled-january-due-impeachment>

We Need Action on Voter Suppression and Security

Hopefully there will be funding for election security in the budget. Sen. Murray is on the appropriations committee. Sen. Cantwell is in the commerce committee.

Russian Propaganda

Our senators need to speak out against Russian propaganda. Like the conspiracy theory that Ukraine attacking our elections.

The DACA Database

The DACA database needs to be protected so that ICE can't hunt people down. The database details the hundreds of thousands who were brought here undocumented as children and applied for legal residency – proving their use to society. Is there legislation for that?

Letter Calling for Miller's Resignation

Yesterday (Dec. 9) 27 senators wrote a letter asking for the resignation of Stephen Miller. Sen. Cantwell did not. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/over-20-senators-to-stephen-miller-resign-now_n_5dd6e5a0e4b0fb24c847a7c2

Proposed Cuts to SNAP Program

Sen. Murray [wrote a letter](#) opposing SNAP cuts, which could take money from 3 million families nationally. She visited a food bank in Issaquah recently. <https://www.kentreporter.com/news/murray-schrier-vow-to-fight-white-house-restrictions-on-food-stamps/>

Sen. Murray Visited SeaTac Detention Center

In 2018. <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/6/senator-murray-s-statement-on-visit-to-federal-detention-center>

She is in the part of the HELP committee that oversees the Office of Refugee Resettlement. She has worked with nurses on healthcare there, including calling for flu vaccines.

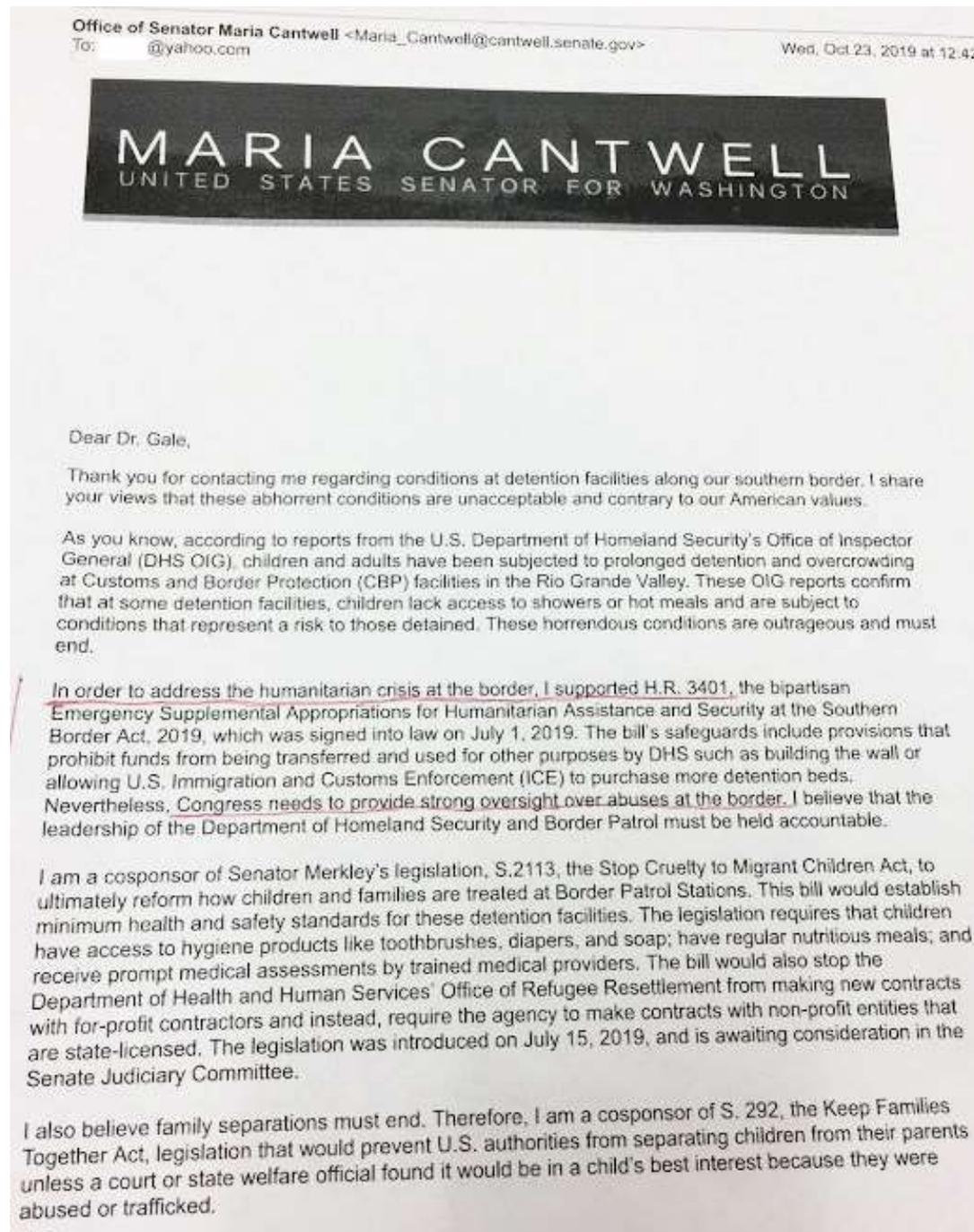
<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/mobile/newsreleases?ID=65D0DE9C-404B-49BB-9B69-1DA5FFC45AF5>

We want to know how many immigrant **separated families** there are. They will ask.

It is intentional cruelty. One participant said that about 5% of their twitter feeds are about immigration. None of it is urgent or includes compelling stories.

The Seattle Six were arrested for refusing to leave Sen. Cantwell's office after hours on August 6. They want her to take a firm stance on the treatment of immigrants at the border. Their trial is January 30th. <https://cad2bfe0b1cd1dc8cef0a1f59de532a.blogspot.com/2019/10/thursday-october-24th-830-am-cantwell.html>

Howard Gale, one of them, brought this email to the meeting. Sen. Cantwell [voted for HR 3401](#) – as did Sen. Murray. The email shows Sen. Cantwell being glad to vote for it – the bill [includes more than \\$2m for ICE and \\$110m in overtime funding for CBPP](#). (Email continues on next page.)



Lastly, it must be stated that the United States is obligated under U.S. and international law to protect asylum seekers and fairly process the validity of their claims. Our nation, as well as our state, has a long and proud history of taking a leading role protecting innocent civilians, who are unable or unwilling to return to their home country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. I have opposed the Trump administration's harmful attempts to limit people's ability to seek asylum in the United States. I have also advocated for increasing funding to federal programs that support refugee resettlement in the United States and humanitarian support for refugees abroad.

Thank you again for contacting me to share your thoughts on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

For future correspondence with my office, please visit my website at
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>

Climate Change

We need aggressive action on climate change. We need more money for the energy department to work on carbon sequestration. Sen. Cantwell is on the energy committee. We also need electric trains to reduce the number of planes and cruises.

We need a town hall. Sen. Murray is the only WA elected official who hasn't had one since 2016.

Kate is transitioning to another office, still working for Sen. Murray. We gave her a round of applause for working with us for so long! Senator Murray's office will find someone else to attend our meetings.

Casey is not the King County Director for Senator Cantwell, and therefore not in the role that will regularly meet with us. They'll find someone else.