Olympia Indivisible Delegation Visit with
Kierra Phifer, South Sound Director

Olympia Indivisible Members attending Kathleen O’Shaunessey,
Mary Nelson, and Carla Wulfsberg

Agenda:
1. Introduction of Olympia Indivisible delegation
2. Kierra Phifer, introduction

THANK YOUs

A. Health Care
   ▪ Thank you for standing up for women’s health by writing a letter on April 5 to Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services. You expressed outrage that Azar removed “critical information related to breast cancer from the website for the Office of Women’s Health (OWH).” The Sunlight Foundation found that major parts of the “Breast Cancer” section were removed or significantly altered. In addition, all the Spanish language resources were removed.

   ▪ Thank you for drafting bi-partisan legislation to address the opioid crisis. The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 will improve the ability of the federal government to address the crisis, including how it effects families. The Senate Health, Education… Committee will hold a hearing on the draft legislation today, April 11.
B. Protecting Our Environment

- Thank you for supporting, along with Senator Cantwell, high capacity public transit in Snohomish County that, among other benefits, will decrease auto emissions and congestion. The new $43.19 million dollar grant will support expansion of a 12.5 mile bus rapid transit route between Paine Field/Boeing in Everett and the Regional Growth Center in Bothell and the purchase 13 new busses.

C. Protecting our Democracy

- Thank you for co-sponsoring S. 2580, Every Person Counts Act. It is critically important that everyone living in the US is counted in 2020. This bill will eliminate questions about US citizenship or immigration status in the census.

D. Protecting Public Education

- Thank you for introducing S.1806, Child Care for Working Families Act. This bill will amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990 and the Head Start Act. Among the changes, the bill would ensure that “no low-to moderate-income family pays more than 7 percent of its household income on child care.”

E. Protecting Veterans

- Thank you for writing a letter to President Trump on March 30 outlining your priorities and principles for the new Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs which include no privatization of the VA health care system “or any of the other proposals designed to slowly dismantle the VA system.”

F. Our Tribes

- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell to introduce a resolution to recognize the contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States. The resolution also recognizes the importance of promoting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interest of strong, diverse women in the U.S.
ASKS

1) Protect Our Democracy, Freedom of the Press

ASK: Oppose the confirmation of Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo’s confirmation hearing for Secretary of State could be as soon as Thursday, Mike Pompeo has tried to destroy diplomacy with Iran, has voiced anti-Muslim bigotry, and supported torture. His appointment as Secretary of State would take us closer to war with Iran, and he could make the crisis with North Korea worse. We do not need a warmonger leading the State Department.

- If Pompeo is confirmed, then Gina Haspel will likely be nominated for head of the CIA. We strongly oppose her nomination. The Senate torture report indicated that the CIA and Haspel committed crimes that went beyond what they were authorized. The CIA lied to Congress about the brutality and torture.

ASK: Oppose Sinclair’s purchase of Tribune Media. Sinclair owns 193 stations reaching 40% of US households across the country and is awaiting approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to purchase Tribune Media. Tribune owns or operates 42 local television stations, reaching more than 50 million households in the largest markets in the US, including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and would increase Sinclair’s reach to 72% of households. Most American’s rely on and trust their local new affiliates, but this merger would create a media empire comparable to Russian or Chinese state media. This purchase would be anti-competitive and would violate anti-trust laws.

2) Protect Our Quality of Life (Gun legislation, gun-related)

ASK: Oppose S. 446 – Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. This bill weakens gun violence protections. A hearing by the Senate Judiciary was held on March 14.

3) War in Yemen, US Aggression in Syria

**ASK:** Oppose Trump’s $1.3 billion artillery sale to Saudi Arabia! This sale will be final in a few weeks. Congress has not authorized our involvement in this war. US ships in the Red Sea are blocking imports into Yemen and our support of Saudi Arabia is causing the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world right now. We are contributing to the starvation of 8 million people. Twenty-two million people need humanitarian aid, and there are one million suspected cases of cholera and diphtheria in Yemen. [Democracy Now April 6, 2018]

**ASK:** Co-sponsor S.J. Res.54 and speak out in Congress against the United States support of the Saudi’s war in Yemen. You have still not signed on as co-sponsor of Senator Sanders’ bill – “A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.”

**ASK:** Trump must be prevented from bombing Syria in retaliation for the nerve gas bombing by the Syrian government. Please speak out.

4) Protect Public Education

**ASK:** As the Ranking Member on the US Senate Committee on Heath, Education, Labor and Pensions we ask that you encourage the Committee to “monitor the US Department of Education’s implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and to correct the inappropriate approval of noncompliant state plans.” This action was requested to the Committee in a letter on April 10, 2018 by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and 16 organizations. Secretary DeVos must conduct a “robust review of state plans and approve only those that complied with the law.” (Letter of April 26, 2017 to Betsy DeVos.)

5) Protect Our Environment

**ASK:** In early March, Pruitt announced he will scrap EPA rules restricting the disposal of coal ash, the toxic byproduct from coal-fired power plants. Coal ash often contains arsenic, chromium, lead, and mercury and has caused major water contamination problems across the country. Please confront Scott Pruitt on this issue and protect our water and air.
6) Budget – Immigration

**ASK:** We ask that you continue to work to fix DACA that does not include a border wall. Is there a plan for resolving this or just a temporary extension of DACA, pushing it past the midterm elections?

8) Meet With Your Constituents

**ASK:** We ask that you hold at least one town hall in Western Washington during the next recess. Your constituents in Olympia Indivisible would like to meet with you. You have not offered one town hall since Trump was elected.

Schedule next meeting.

Take Photo.
Senator Patty Murray
Committee Assignments

Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee -
Ranking Member
  Employment and Workplace Safety
  Children and Families Subcommittee

Appropriations Committee
Within the Appropriations Committee, Senator Murray is
Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Murray also serves on the following subcommittees:

  Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
  Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
  Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies
  Defense Subcommittee
  Homeland Security Subcommittee

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Democratic Leadership - Conference Secretary