Thank you for your tireless work to solve problems and find long-term solutions to protect the ACA. We are concerned about the new plan from Senate Finance Committee chairman Orrin Hatch and House Ways and Means chairman Kevin Brady that undercuts the Alexander-Murray compromise, potentially undermining ACA exchange markets yet again. (Olympia Indivisible Research Report 10/28/17)

Thank you for requesting with Senator Warren an investigation back in January with concerns that the Trump Administration’s decisions to pull advertisements for enrollment in the ACA was wasteful, unwarranted, and could reduce ACA enrollment. The report from that investigation, recently released by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Inspector General (IG,) confirmed that the Trump Administration’s decisions appeared to be politically motivated with little analysis of how the decisions would impact ACA enrollment. Thank you for bringing this confirmed sabotage of the ACA to the attention of Congress and the media. (Press release 10/25/17)

Thank you for your speech on the Senate floor urging Congress to move immediately to extend federal funding for CHIP, Children’s Health Insurance Program that the Republicans let expire last month. (Press Release 10/25/17)
Health Care, Health Issues, cont.

- Thank you for speaking out against Trump’s shortfall in dealing with the opioid crisis. He did not give states the resources they need and could even undermine other public health issues. (Press release 10/26/17)

Education

- Thank you for releasing a strong statement calling it “appalling” that Secretary DeVos is considering providing only partial relief to students who were defrauded by predatory for-profit colleges. Under the “borrow defense” rule, students who were cheated out of their education and savings are entitled to a full discharge, and in some cases a refund of their loans. (Press Release 10/30/17)

Protecting Our Democracy/Humanitarian Aid

- Thank you for writing a letter with Senator Cantwell to Director Mick Mulvaney in the Office of Management and Budget to demand answers from the Trump Administration about why a request was denied to allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with the Dales Dam Tribal House Village Development Plan. Loss of tribal homes and villages are associated with construction of The Dalles Dam more than 65 years ago. (Press Release 10/30/17)

- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell to honor the Second Infantry Division’s Century of Service. The Division is based at JBLM and was formed in 1917. (Press Release 10/26/17)

- Thank you for your new letter calling on Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Eric Hargen to voice your concern and to ask for clear information on the department’s ongoing hurricane response effort in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Press Release 10/27/17)

- Thank you for your letter to the Senate science and transportation committee urging your colleagues to oppose Trump’s nominee, Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-OK), to lead NASA. Throughout his time in Congress, he has continually spoken out against LGBTQ individuals, against women’s rights, against anti-domestic violence programs, against immigrants, and he is a science denier. (Press Release 10/26/17)
Protecting Our Environment

- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell and nine senators to send a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke calling into question the National Park Service’s proposal to triple entrance fees to 17 popular national parks. And for asking Zinke provide Congress with the analysis and justification used to set the proposed fee increases. (Press Release 10/26/17)

- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell and a bipartisan group of Western Senators to introduce Senate Bill 1991, The Wildland Fires Act of 2017 to better prepare for and prevent costly wildfires, in addition to supporting rural jobs restoring forests. (Press Release 10/19/17)

Budget

- Thank you for voting no against the Tax Bill earlier this month.

ASKS

Budget

1) After Republicans introduce their bill on Wednesday, 11/1, we expect the House to begin marking up their bill during the week of November 6 and they may vote as early as the week of November 13. As soon as the House votes, the Senate will begin marking up their bill. The Senate will likely vote on their bill right before or right after Thanksgiving. Please continue to oppose massive give-aways to the wealthiest Americans and corporations.

Health Care

2) Please continue your hard work to help stabilize the individual health insurance market and preserve the ACA. (Patty Murray for Senate 10/17/17)

Protecting Our Democracy/ Protecting our Privacy/ Civil Rights

3) Protecting the Mueller investigation
Please ensure that Mueller’s investigation is protected from any attempt by the Administration to stall the investigation. Please support S. 1735 (Special Counsel Independence Protection Act) and S. 1741 (Special Counsel Integrity Act.) A hearing was held by the Committee on the Judiciary Sept.26.
4) Please support Senate 1989, Honest Ads Act – to ensure transparency and accountability for online political advertising. The bill has two co-sponsors and was introduced by Senator Amy Kobuchar (D- MN).

5) Please continue to speak out against Trump’s warmongering – we do not want a war with North Korea. Please support the U.S. State Department to oppose any spending cuts to the US State Department, and to encourage this Administration, especially the State Department, to resolve this matter through diplomacy.

6) Please support, and co-sponsor, the new bill, Senate 2016 introduced by Senator Ed Markey on October 26 to prevent an unconstitutional strike against North Korea.

7) Please DO NOT extend unconstitutional surveillance authority, Section 702 which expires at the end of 2017. Let Section 702 expire. Please support Senate 1997 – ‘don’t let Trump spy on us!’

8) Please oppose anti-voting rights Thomas Farr for federal judgeship. Farr has a long history of defending policies designed to disenfranchise black voters.

9) Please oppose Eric Dreiband as head of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. He is unqualified and his nomination has been widely condemned by civil rights organizations. His confirmation only requires 51 votes and none of the 52 Republicans have voiced opposition to him.

10) Please oppose Amy Coney Barrett for US Court of Appeals. She would have a lifetime position on the US Court of Appeals and poses a grave threat to our system of justice, specifically to reproductive rights.

Schedule next meeting.

Take Photo.