

Senator Murray's Tacoma Office

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615

May 23, 2017 – 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

**Olympia Indivisible Delegation Visit with
Kierra Phifer, South Sound Director**

Olympia Indivisible Members attending:

Marsha Ammons, Roxanne Lieb, Jen Merril, and Carla Wulfsberg

Agenda:

Introduction of Olympia Indivisible delegation

Kierra Phifer, introduction

THANK YOUS

1. Russian Investigation

Thank you for joining with 10 other senators urging the Inspector General of the Dept. of Justice Department to investigate whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions violated his recusal from the investigation into Russia's interference with the 2016 election when he recommended to Trump that he fire FBI Director Comey.

2. Education

Thank you for introducing legislation to make college more affordable for low-income students and Secure Pell Grant program in the face of "absurd" cuts by \$3 billion from the US Dept. of Education's budget.

(Murray Press Release May 16, 2017)

3. Protecting LGBTQ Rights

Thank you for introducing a bill to end anti-LGBTQ credit through the Freedom from Discrimination in Credit Act that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity when applying for credit. Currently no federal law protects LGBTQ individuals from credit discrimination. (Murray Press release 5/17/17)

4. Environment

Thank you for co-sponsoring [S.Res.155](#) —

A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

Thank you for standing with environmentalists to uphold the Obama –era rule that forces energy companies to capture methane that's burned off or "flare" at drilling sites. This was a big win in the Senate with a 51-49 vote.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to fight any challenge to the Hanford Reach National Monument as it has been characterized as both needless and a time-waster.

5. Protecting Working People

Thank you for publically questioning Trump's profiting from the retirement plans of millions of working Americans. It was reported that at least 7 states periodically send millions of dollars to an investment fund that owns the Trump SoHo Hotel and Condominium in New York City and pays a Trump company to run it.

(Reuters, May 9,2017)

Thank you for introducing the "Accurate Workplace Injury & Illness Records Restoration Act" that would reinstate the OSHA recordkeeping rule that was overturned by a resolution signed into law by Trump on April 3^{r d}.

NOTES: Republicans see this as a burden on businesses. It is very important to track injuries and keep the documentation. Important milestone for businesses.

OUR ASKS

6. Russian Interference Investigation - ASK

Please vote for Senate Bill 27 which would create an Independent Commission that operates with full transparency about the Russian interference in our election.

To restore our democracy's credibility, we need hearings and testimony and reports – all public. Only a special select committee of Congress can provide that. The Special Counsel was a step in the right direction, but will operate behind closed doors and the public may never find out about what exactly happened beyond what can be criminally charged. We citizens have the right to know every aspect of what happened, who did what, and why they did it.

Notes: Important issue!

7. Elections - ASK

Please say No To Voter Suppression

We do not support the so-called Commission on “Election Integrity,” and that we request that the Senator resist any attempts in Congress to support or aid this commission.

On May 11 an executive order was signed establishing a Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Vice-President Pence is the chair of the commission that will “study the registration and voting processes used in Federal elections” and will “be solely advisory”. In addition, “The Commission shall hold public meetings and engage with Federal, State, and local officials, and election law experts, as necessary, to carry out its mission.” Republicans typically use fraud claims to justify voting law restrictions, suppressing voter turnout among minorities and those who are less well-off.

NOTES: Look for a website to find out when there are hearings, etc. Look at whitehouse.org as the first place. Look for ways to express opinions. In some states, people cannot use veteran ID cards as identification to vote, for example. Keep focus on this issue. Look for a report coming out in 2018!

8. Health Care - ASK

Please continue your opposition to TrumpCare and defend the ACA. GOP senators say they are discussing a possible short-term bill if their health care talks drag on. Time is important, especially with Trump's problems distracting lawmakers. Insurance companies could grow increasingly spooked by the uncertainty and make health care markets even worse by raising premiums or pulling out. We hope you can delay the vote on Trumpcare because the longer it takes Republicans to write the legislation, the less time they'll have for tax cuts and other GOP priorities.

NOTES; Expect that the Senate will release the bill to the public at the last minute and have a very quick vote. The ACA does need some fixes but to repeal and gut is hugely concerning. The CBO score will come out tomorrow and that will be very revealing.
If members have personal stories related to this issue, email them to the Senator's staff. Very important to help build the narrative.

9. Global Gag Rule – Family Planning – ASKs

Please contact USAID, the State Department and the Department of Defense, to protest the gag rule placed on family planning assistance. Please support legislation that guarantees funding to international medical aid groups regardless whether the group supports or discusses or offers abortions.

Please assert pressure against Jeff Sessions' New War On Drugs Attorney General Jeff Sessions is working to reinstate the failed War on Drugs, calling for law enforcement to follow the most severe penalties possible. We are opposed to this strategy because it was a failed policy. Prosecutors say that there are no real benefits to Session's May 10 directive but they noted "significant costs." We ask that you please do anything you can to influence this outdated "law enforcement" strategy. (The Washington Post, May 19, 2017)

NOTES: Expect to see that there are proposals to punish Washington and Colorado related to marijuana legalization. The Senator is not supportive of the Sessions' effort.

Schedule next meeting.

Take a photo.