

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

June 28, 2009

Seattle Out And Proud
1605 12th Ave Ste 2
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear Friends:

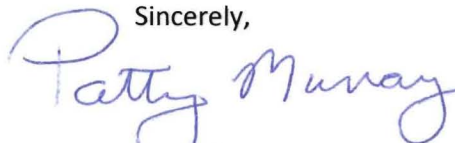
Welcome to the 2009 Seattle Pride Parade and celebrations! You are all here because you want a nation that is stronger, and that respects and creates opportunities for all Americans. Just as important, you know progress doesn't just happen on its own. You understand it only comes through passion, hard work and bringing people together.

Our country is facing major challenges, and change will take time. But I want you to know that I remain committed to fighting discrimination and equalizing partner benefits. I voted against a proposed Constitutional amendment that would have defined marriage as only the legal union between a man and woman. I strongly support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, as well as the Tax Equity for Domestic Partner and Health Plan Beneficiaries Act. That bill would help equalize the treatment of domestic partners under federal tax law.

As you enjoy the festivities this week, please take a moment to remember that this year's Pride Parade marks the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City. It is important to recognize how far our society has come while focusing on the important work still ahead to ensure that every American is on an equal playing field, regardless of sexual orientation.

Please accept my best wishes for all of the events in our community this week that celebrate Pride.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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