



U.S. Senator  
**Patty Murray**  
Working for Washington State

**Washington, D.C. Office** 173 Russell Senate Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238

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Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom  
Washington Area KCC Churches  
The Great Love Church of Seattle  
4905 147<sup>th</sup> Place SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to acknowledge the congregation of the Washington Area KCC Churches as you gather this Sunday at the Great Love Church of Seattle. I wish I could be with you in person, but please accept this note in my absence.

I am proud to represent such an active group of citizens, and I share your concerns for the plight of North Korean refugees being held in China. The U.S. State Department estimates that China is the home to about 30,000 to 50,000 North Korean refugees who are fleeing famine, poverty, and human rights violations in their home country. These refugees face very troubling conditions – fleeing the deteriorating situation in North Korea only to face exploitation at the Chinese border, forced repatriation by the Chinese authorities, and a number of other horrors.

In 2004, Congress passed the North Korean Human Rights Act, and it was signed into law. The bill authorized funding for assistance to North Korean refugees and for promoting human rights and freedom of information within North Korea. The bill also instructs the U.S. State Department to facilitate applications from North Koreans seeking protection as refugees.

Though we have made some progress in raising awareness to this problem, still much more is to be done. I am encouraged by your continued determination to work for North Korean refugees, and I will keep your thoughts and hopes in mind as this issue is brought up before the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray  
United States Senator