
FW: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

From James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Date Thu 2/26/2026 3:19 PM

To Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>

From: Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:35 PM

To: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Subject: Fw: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

Please add under correspondence on the March 2 agenda.

Lisa Thomas
Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council
Chair, Capitol Region Council Of Governments Legislative Committee
Member, CT State Comptroller's Healthcare Cabinet
Member, CT Education Mandates Review Advisory Council
860.930.7303

PLEASE NOTE: my new email is LThomas@coventry-ct.gov

From: McBride, Erin (Murphy) <Erin_McBride@murphy.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:14 PM

Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the Coventry Public Schools email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe to open.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide an update on some of the work Senator Murphy has done in Connecticut and Washington over the last couple of weeks.

Connecticut Updates

Concierge Apartments Visit

Last week, Senator Murphy visited [Concierge apartments in Rocky Hill](#), which is owned by a large, out-of-state private equity firm. The firm badly mishandled a water main break and left some tenants without heat during the coldest month of the year, leading to the weeks-long displacement of over 2,000 residents. Senator Murphy heard directly from affected residents. Following his visit, Senator Murphy joined Senator Warren to introduce legislation to get private equity out of housing and bring costs down for families.

IRIS Roundtable

On Wednesday, Senator Murphy [participated in a roundtable with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services \(IRIS\)](#) in New Haven, where he heard from IRIS employees, refugees, and immigrant communities about how the administration's immigration policies have left them in a state of fear.

Nursing Home Workers Press Conference

On February 6th, Senator Murphy held a press conference in Hartford alongside nursing home workers to call out the Trump Administration for reversing a Department of Health and Human Services rule that set safe minimum staffing level requirements in nursing homes. Senator Murphy discussed how nursing home executives donated \$5 million to Trump's campaign to get him to take this action. In Congress, Senator Murphy co-sponsored legislation to make adequate staffing in nursing homes the law.

Government Funding Update

Earlier this month, Congress passed and the president signed a five-bill appropriations package that included funding for the Department of Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; State and Foreign Operations; and Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bills. Municipalities and organizations with Congressionally Directed Spending projects included in those bills should have received a notice from our office or Senator Blumenthal's office about their award. Please reach out to us if you have any additional questions.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was not included in the package. As a result, DHS remains shut down as negotiations over Fiscal Year 2026 funding continue. Earlier this month, Senator Murphy [took to the Senate floor](#) to lay out why Democrats and Republicans must act now to rein in an out-of-control Department of Homeland Security engaging in daily, systematic violations of the law that have sown widespread chaos in our cities and left multiple American citizens dead. Senator Murphy also released a video discussing why we cannot fund DHS without serious, meaningful reform; you can watch the video [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations

Our team is awaiting guidance from the Senate Appropriations Committee on deadlines for Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending and programmatic funding requests. We anticipate the process will start in the next few weeks. We will communicate additional information and deadlines as soon as we have them. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions. Updates will also be [available here](#) on Senator Murphy's website.

Washington Updates

Amtrak Funding

Senator Murphy joined a coalition of his colleagues who represent states along the Northeast Corridor in sending a letter to Senate Commerce and Appropriations Committee leadership, urging them to include advance appropriations for Amtrak and passenger rail programs in the next surface transportation reauthorization expected later this year. You can read more about the letter [here](#).

Protecting Passport Services

In response to the Trump administration banning some local libraries as passport acceptance facilities, Senator Murphy joined his colleagues in a bipartisan, bicameral letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, urging the secretary to extend the existing program while Congress works to enact a permanent solution. Senator Murphy is also a cosponsor of the Community Passport Services Act, bipartisan legislation that would amend the Passport Act to authorize certain public libraries to collect and retain a fee for processing passport applications.

Munich Security Conference

Senator Murphy traveled to Germany to attend the Munich Security Conference, where he met with world leaders and spoke on a panel focused on the development of artificial intelligence (AI). Senator Murphy emphasized the emerging and quickly evolving risks AI poses to our economy, politics, and sense of purpose. Pointing to AI corporations' efforts to consolidate their power over our government and society - at the expense of working people - Senator Murphy argued that international cooperation on regulating AI is urgently necessary. You can read more about the panel [here](#).

Senator Murphy Questions Nominee on White Nationalist Views

In a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on February 12th, Senator Murphy questioned Jeremy Carl, the Trump administration's nominee to be the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, about his white identity worldview and writings. Murphy demanded that Carl explain his long-held beliefs that white Americans face more discrimination than any other racial group in the United States, and called for his Senate colleagues to reject his nomination. You can read the full exchange [here](#).

Crypto Corruption Floor Speech

Earlier this month, Senator Murphy [spoke on the Senate floor](#) to demand accountability following new reporting that a firm controlled by the U.A.E.'s National Security Advisor secretly purchased a 49% stake in the Trump family's crypto venture, World Liberty Financial. The deal steered millions of dollars to Trump and his envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, right before the Trump White House greenlit an unprecedented deal to sell advanced AI chips to the U.A.E. last year, ignoring bipartisan national security warnings.

Trump's Attempts to Jail Democratic Lawmakers

Senator Murphy delivered a speech on the Senate floor calling on his Republican colleagues to recognize Donald Trump's unprecedented, attempted indictment of six Democratic lawmakers as a grave threat to our democracy. He urged his Republican colleagues to unite with Democrats and put a stop to Trump's relentless assault on free speech. You can watch the entire speech [here](#).

Congressional Review Act Resolution on CHAMPVA Beneficiaries

Senator Murphy joined Senator Blumenthal's Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to overturn the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final rule rolling back access to abortion counseling and care for veterans and Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) beneficiaries. The final rule returns VA to a near-total ban on abortion care and counseling, with only a minor carveout for life endangerment. If passed, the CRA resolution would block the rule's implementation.

Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

Senator Murphy joined his colleagues in a letter demanding that U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem reverse her directive to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti. The policy took effect on February 3, 2026, though it was temporarily blocked by a federal judge.

Best,

Erin

Erin E. McBride – *she/her/hers*
Senior Outreach Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy
120 Huyslope Avenue, Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: [\(860\) 549-8463](tel:(860)549-8463)