

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Neal A. Patel September 30, 2014 202-224-6244

**Heller Holding Senate Accountable to Taxpayers**

**(Washington, DC)** – In an effort to curb wasteful spending and save money for taxpayers, United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) sent the following letter calling on Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), the Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, to request an updated audit of services provided to the Senate.

Full text of the letter is below:

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Chairman
Senate Rules Committee
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schumer,

I write to you today to discuss the Senate’s contributions to the fiscal state of the federal government. I respectfully believe that the Senate can and should do more to eliminate inefficiencies and redundancies within Senate services and programs in an effort to greater hold us accountable to the American taxpayers.

As you may know, in 1995, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a financial audit of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate at the request of then Majority Leader Bob Dole and then Minority Leader Thomas Daschle. This audit examined the spending practices and financial controls of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate for fiscal year 1994. Since 1995, although the GAO has conducted financial audits of the Senate Revolving Funds, the GAO has not completed a similar audit of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate.

Given that these offices fall within your committee’s jurisdiction and it has been almost two decades after this audit, I respectfully ask that the Senate Rules Committee request the GAO to conduct a financial audit of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate. Additionally, I request that this audit require the GAO to provide recommendations to improve performance and accountability of Senate programs, services, and operations within the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate.

As Members of Congress, I believe we can agree that our nation’s fiscal concerns are a serious problem and we have a responsibility to lead by example by examining our own practices creating greater accountability to the American taxpayer.

I respectfully appreciate the opportunity to contact you. I look forward to receiving your response and working with you to better promote fiscal responsibility within the Senate.

 Sincerely,

 DEAN HELLER

 U.S. Senator

cc: Senate Rules Committee Ranking Member Roberts

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