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| June 14, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Introduces Legislation to Expand G.I. Educational Benefits**

**Washington, D.C** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller introduced the Senate version of the Guard and Reservists Education Improvement Act, a bill sponsored by Rep. Brad Wenstrup (OH-02), which would adjust the G.I. bill tier structure to increase the benefit payable percentage for Guardsmen and Reservists who served less than 36 months.

“Many Nevada veterans are either searching for employment, or do not have the means to pay for an education that will result in a good-paying job. This legislation provides tuition increases to help repay service members who sacrificed promotions, experience, and other career development because of their commitment to serve,” **said Heller.** “As a senior member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I will work to see this legislation becomes law so Nevada veterans can receive a benefit they deserve.”

Nevada has a large number of Guard and Reservists who have the potential to receive G.I. Bill benefits. Many have fallen short of the 36-month requirement of active duty service to receive the full 100% G.I. Bill educational assistance benefit. The legislation increases the benefit payable for individuals who serve at least 90 days but less than 6 months of active duty from 40% to 50%. It would also increase the amount of eligibility for individuals who serve at least 6 months but less than 12 months from 50% to 60% benefit payable. Currently, there are one million Reserve Component members mobilized nationwide.

National veterans organizations supportive of this legislation include the Reserve Officers Association, American Legion, Student Veterans of America, National Guard Association of the United States, and The Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

Heller is a senior member on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee representing Nevada’s 300,000 veterans.

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