|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/74/US-Senate-UnofficialAltGreatSeal.svg/2000px-US-Senate-UnofficialAltGreatSeal.svg.png |
|  |  |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contacts:**  |
| April 3, 2017 | Megan Taylor (202) 224-6244 (Heller)Amanda Maddox 202-224-7777 (Isakson)Marnee Banks 202-228-0371 (Tester)  |

**Heller, Isakson, Tester Introduce Bill to Increase Benefits for Veterans** *Bipartisan Bill Boosts Veterans’ Disability Compensation, Accommodate for Cost-of-Living Adjustment***Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) joined with members of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, led by Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-MT), in introducing the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017, bipartisan legislation to increase veterans’ disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). “Nevada is home to over 300,000 veterans, and I am committed to fighting to see that they receive the disability and health care benefits they have earned,” **said Heller.** “As the cost of living for veterans rises, it’s essential that the benefits provided by the VA reflect those increases. I’m proud of this bipartisan effort to stand up for those who have taken care of us and to make good on our country’s promise to them.” “Our men and women in uniform have sacrificed greatly, and it is our duty to provide veterans and their families with the benefits they so rightly deserve,” **said Isakson.** “As such, we are working to ensure veterans’ benefits mirror rising living costs in our country.”“Veterans have earned this benefit, and this increase is a step in the right direction to live up to the promises we made to our men and women in uniform,” **said Tester.** “I’m proud to stand with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to keep veterans’ benefits in line with the rising costs of housing, utilities, and food.”The bill, which was co-sponsored by every member of the Senate VA committee, would increase the rates of VA disability compensation, dependency compensation for surviving children and spouses, as well as the clothing allowance for veterans based on rising costs of living.This cost-of-living adjustment, which would be equal to the amount of the adjustment given to Social Security recipients, is determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index on a yearly basis. The cost-of-living adjustment for veterans would go into effect on Dec. 1, 2017.In addition to Heller, Isakson, and Tester, the original co-sponsors of the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act are U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS), John Boozman (R-AK), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Patty Murray (D-WA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Richard Blumenthal (D–CT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Joe Manchin (D-WV).###http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png |