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**Heller and Klobuchar Team for Hearing Aid Tax Credit**

**(Washington, DC) –** Today, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) issued the following statements following introduction of the *Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act*, S. 315, legislation designed to provide Americans with an important tax credit to help purchase the hearing devices they need:

“Hearing loss affects people of all ages, and the number of Americans experiencing hearing loss continues to grow. Identifying these problems at an early stage is paramount to treating them, and fortunately, most individuals with hearing loss can be effectively treated with hearing aids. Approximately 360,000 residents of Nevada have some degree of hearing loss. Unfortunately, many of these individuals cannot afford the hearing devices they need. This legislation allows for individuals with hearing loss to live in a world where they can continue to be a functioning member of a healthy society. I’d also like to thank my colleague Senator Klobuchar for her work on this legislation affecting so many,” **stated Senator Heller.**

“For the millions of Americans with hearing loss, hearing aids can be life-changing tools that help them hear better and live better every day,” **Klobuchar said.** “Unfortunately, the high cost of some hearing aids means many families struggle to afford them or even forgo them altogether. By fighting to pass this legislation, we can help improve the quality of life for many Americans with hearing loss by enabling them to better afford their hearing aids.”

**According to Corrine Altman, Co-President of the Nevada chapter of AG Bell, Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,** “This will provide great financial assistance for people who need hearing aids, including parents in Nevada and nationally who find it a hardship to provide hearing aids for their children with hearing loss. Newborn Hearing Screening has advanced early detection, and the hearing aid remains the first step in advancing listening and spoken language for these children - allowing them to reach their potential.”

**Todd Murray, Chairman of Hearing Industries Association (HIA),** points out,“Hearing aids can help 95% of people with hearing loss, and failure to take action can have significant implications for individuals as well as society as a whole.” He notes that studies indicate that a link exists between untreated hearing loss and dementia, as well as other conditions such as depression and the risk of falling. Murray adds, “The lack of financial assistance should not be a barrier to hearing aid adoption.”

**According to Anna Gilmore Hall, Executive Director of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA),** “Hearing aids are essential to enable millions of people with hearing loss to fully engage with family, friends and colleagues. And we are thrilled that Senator Heller is continuing to be a champion of efforts to provide a tax credit to help people purchase hearing aids.”

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*This legislation provides a non-refundable $500 tax credit for the purchase of a hearing aid, or $1,000 if two are needed, once every five years.*