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United States Senate

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**Heller, Murray Introduce Bill to Assist Veteran Children**

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Creating A Reliable Environment (CARE) for Veterans’ Dependents Act, a bill designed to ensure that children of homeless veterans are eligible for services provided to that veteran by VA funded facilities.

“It’s particularly important during these financially difficult times to remember that the children of our nation’s veterans are also suffering. Just because a veteran parent falls on tough times should never mean that their dependent is turned away for help,” said **Senator Dean Heller**. “I am proud to introduce this bill with Senator Murray that gives veterans the respect they deserve and helps ensure that these children’s futures are full of opportunity.”

“The men and women who have heroically served America in the military should not find themselves struggling to find a bed to sleep in or a meal to eat,” said **Senator Murray**. “This is especially true for the children of our veterans. It is critical that we ensure access to the resources and support these children need while their families work through difficult economic times. I am proud to join with Senator Heller in introducing this important legislation.”

**Background:**

* Under current law, the VA Grant and Per Diem program does not reimburse VA funded facilities for services provided to a homeless veteran’s dependent.
* Children accompanying their veteran parent who has fallen on hard times can be turned away from receiving care at VA funded facilities.
* The CARE for Veterans’ Dependents Act simply allows the VA to reimburse facilities for care of a dependent of a veteran receiving care at a shelter funded by the VA Grant and Per Diem program.

A PDF copy of the CARE for Veterans’ Dependents Act is attached with this release.

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