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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich 202-224-6244  |
| May 5, 2015 |

**Media Advisory:** **Senators Heller and Casey to Hold Press Call****Media Advisory:**On **Wednesday, May 6, 2015,** U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bob Casey (D-PA) will hold a telephone press conference. In their opening remarks, they will focus on legislation to combat the Veterans Administration (VA) claims backlog that will be unveiled earlier in the morning on March 6th. Heller and Casey will also discuss the recent release of the VA Claims Backlog Working Group 2015 Report, as well as answer any other questions. Senators Heller and Casey will be available to Nevada and Pennsylvania media outlets for a question and answer session from **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (PT).**  **What:** U.S. Senators Dean Heller and Bob Casey available for Q&A **When:** Wednesday, May 6, 2015, from **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (PT).**  **Where:** Call in number provided upon RSVP**Note**: Please contact Michawn Rich at 202-224-6244 or at michawn\_rich@heller.senate.gov if you plan on participating or for further information.  **Additional background**: Senators Heller, Casey, and others, will hold a press conference on Wednesday in Washington, DC, to unveil legislation designed to further reduce the backlog of veteran disability claims. The Senators will also release the VA Backlog Working Group 2015 Report.In July of 2013, Senators Heller and Casey announced the formation of the [VA Backlog Working Group](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=2daa6da5-8c7a-447d-951a-c03e9f1f11e9). The purpose of the Working Group was to provide a better understanding of the VA claims process and a forum for lawmakers, veterans, and VSOs to tackle the disability claim backlog. The report outlined the history of the backlog, and recommended legislative solutions to bring the system into the 21st century.Since the introduction of the VA Claims Backlog Working Group’s 2014 Report, the VA and Congress have implemented many of the recommendations proposed in the report and [the legislation](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/6ce07775-9d03-4da4-a81d-f1220280163d/VA%20Backlog%20Legislation%20%28FINAL%29.pdf) Heller and Casey introduced. However, the senators have recognized more changes are needed to create a system that can withstand surges in claims without generating another backlog in the future.###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 |