|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) | | March 27, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |   **VA Honors Heller Request for Veterans & Community Forum in Ely**  **(Ely, NV)** – Representatives from Senator Dean Heller’s Office (R-NV) will join the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at a community forum—scheduled at Senator Heller’s request—to discuss the VA’s expiring contract with William Bee Ririe Hospital and its effect on the more than 200 veterans it serves **on Monday, April 3rd, 2017** at **4:00 p.m**. in Ely, NV. In February, Senator Heller [sent a letter to the VA](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=39106101-F138-41BE-9A96-578064AD7D41) that requested this community meeting, raised concerns about the hospital’s contract, and demanded answers to ensure veterans in Ely and surrounding rural communities continue to receive timely care should the VA choose to not renew the hospital’s contract. The forum is an opportunity for veterans to ask the VA directly about the impact of any future action involving the hospital’s contract.  **WHAT**:                   VA Veterans & Community Forum  **WHEN**:                   Monday, April 3, 2017                                  4:00 P.M. PST to 6:00 P.M. PST  **WHERE**:                White Pine Aquatics Center (conference room below the Aquatics Center)                                  1800 Bobcat Drive                                  Ely, NV 89301  **Background:**  On February 28th, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) sent a letter to the Director of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Shella Stovall, about guaranteeing timely and quality health care access for veterans in Ely and the surrounding communities. A PDF copy of that letter can be found [here](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/afc5083d-32b3-4c16-8eea-09390a7546f5/Heller%20Letter%20to%20Salt%20Lake%20City%20VA%20(Ely%20VA%20Care).pdf). The VA responded by agreeing to host this community forum on April 3rd.  ###  [cid:image005.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177)[cid:image006.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller)[cid:image007.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |