****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For Immediate Release: | Contact: [Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) |
| November 18, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Welcomes $2.9 Million USDA Loan for Pershing General Hospital Upgrades**

*Heller a Long-Time Advocate for Improving Health Care in Rural Communities*

**Washington, D.C. –** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today welcomed U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue’s announcement that the agency provided Pershing General Hospital in Lovelock, NV a $2.9 million low-interest loan for renovations. According to the USDA, Pershing General Hospital will use the loan to upgrade heating, air, and fire suppression systems and repave its parking lot and helipad.

"I welcome the Department of Agriculture's announcement that Pershing General hospital will receive a nearly $3 million loan, and appreciate Secretary Perdue's push to invest in rural health care," **said Heller.** "Pershing General Hospital will use the loan to finance critical upgrades at the hospital, including updating its air conditioning and heating systems. I will continue to work to ensure that the Nevadans living in rural areas are not overlooked, and champion policies that will improve their access to quality health care."

“USDA invests in a wide range of health care facilities – such as hospitals, clinics and treatment centers – to help ensure that rural residents have access to the same state-of-the art care available in urban and metropolitan areas,” **said Secretary Perdue.** "I understand that building a prosperous rural America begins with healthy people. Ensuring that rural communities have access to quality medical care is a top priority for USDA.”

Heller has introduced legislation aimed at improving health care for Nevadans living in rural communities. Earlier this week, Heller along with Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced [the Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance Services Act, bipartisan legislation that will improve access to emergency air medical services](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=5DF0429A-ADF1-4F50-A3ED-5019F6E8025C). And this past summer, Heller and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced the [bipartisan Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=87919CA1-6D52-458F-9332-A6A11C0ADEA1), a bill designed to address the growing physician shortage and its strain on the health care system and patients’ access to quality care.

###

[id:image002.png@01D36089.D471CC10](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177)[id:image003.png@01D36089.D471CC10](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller)[id:image004.png@01D36089.D471CC10](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller)