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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich |
| April 21, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller’s Request for Women Veterans Hearing Granted***Senator will speak at hearing today***Media Advisory** **Today**, Tuesday, April 21, Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) will speak at a Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing on “Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans.” The hearing is at the request of Senator Heller, who [called for it earlier this year](http://1.usa.gov/1Gd38jg), and will examine what progress the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made in offering gender-specific care to women veterans.  In February, Senator Heller sent a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee requesting the committee hold a hearing to assess the VA’s efforts to care for our nation’s women veterans and returning female service members. You can read the letter [here](http://1.usa.gov/1Gd38jg).Included in tomorrow’s hearing as a witness will be Dr. Anne Davis, Chair of Governor Sandoval’s Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee.  **Hearing Details:****What:** Senator Heller speaks at Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee**Date:               Today**,Tuesday, April 21, 2015 **Time:** 11:30 am PT**Where:** Russell Senate Office Building SR-418                        Washington, DC **Live link:**        <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/>  \*Link will go live at approximately 11:30 am PT**Background:**Today, nearly 2.3 million women are U.S. veterans, including 27,000 in Nevada. Given the number is expected to rise, Senator Heller has taken the lead by introducing the bipartisan [Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=3edf4cbe-8e98-45e6-8472-3530376f3f18) (S. 471). Heller’s legislation, introduced along with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), will do the following:* Require VA to establish standards in VA health care facilities to meet the specific needs of women veterans and integrate these standards into prioritization for construction projects.
* Analyze women’s health outcomes as a performance measure for VA medical center executives.
* Require every VA medical center to have a full-time obstetrician and/or gynecologist.
* Improve outreach to veterans by requiring VA to provide state veterans agencies with contact information for veterans.
* Require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of VA’s ability to meet the needs of women veterans and their privacy and security in VA facilities.

The Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act has been endorsed by:* [Disabled American Veterans](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e0410c89-f33e-443e-b177-b53a578ad810/DAV%20Letter%20of%20Support%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Wounded Warrior Project](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/fa69608d-9575-4aad-a54f-93e99f9e7af6/Wounded%20Warrior%20Project%20Letter%20of%20Support%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Military Officers Association of America](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2b7eee8c-47c0-4ad5-8192-7d348ec26660/MOAA%20support%20letter%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/59f9c6a6-eba5-4218-ac47-23af1dc8d304/IAVA%20Support%20Letter%20-%20S471.pdf)
* [Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/338c0a68-144b-4f58-b712-8e03be0b0d03/WVAC%20Support%20letter%20S471.pdf)

In March, the [Senate agreed to Heller Amendment #456](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=37bd7c42-fdb3-4eb6-bacc-9afc1e260f90) to the FY2016 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), which ensures Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities properly meet the needs of women veterans by taking into account their safety, privacy, and dignity. The amendment was cosponsored by Senators Murray, Bob Casey (D-PA), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).###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 |