

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Chandler Smith

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**Heller Welcomes Bipartisan Progress on USA Freedom Act**

*Bipartisan deal includes Heller-Franken provisions to increase transparency*

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) welcomed a bipartisan agreement on the USA Freedom Act of 2014, legislation which will end the National Security Agency’s (NSA’s) bulk data collection practices. The revised legislation includes a provision with Senator Heller introduced with Senator Al Franken (D-MN) which expands and improves ongoing government reporting about programs under the *PATRIOT Act* and the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*.

“The government has grossly overreached with its surveillance practices, and as a result, Americans’ distrust of their own government continues to grow. Congress can take immediate steps to fix that by increasing transparency and improving reporting practices. I’m extremely pleased that my colleagues have been willing to work with me and Senator Franken to include our provisions in the latest draft.

“But, more must be done, and the USA Freedom Act is a comprehensive approach that will take the steps necessary to end bulk data collection practices and help restore privacy rights to our nation’s citizens. I am grateful to Senator Leahy for his persistent leadership on this issue, and hope that the Senate can move swiftly to vote on this bill,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Heller is an original cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act, which was introduced in both chambers of Congress by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI).

Senators Heller and Franken [reintroduced](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=6f23dfbf-cdf0-46cb-91ac-05194439dfa7) their transparency measure on October 30, 2013. The *Surveillance Transparency Act of 2013,* which is included under Title Six of the revised legislation, would do the following:

Require the government to report annually on:

* The number of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court orders issued under key provisions of the *PATRIOT Act* and *FISA*;
* The general categories of information collected;
* The number of American citizens and permanent residents whose information was collected under the categories;
* The number of American citizens and permanent residents whose information was actually reviewed by federal agents; and
* The number of searches run on that data, including the number of searches run based on data from American citizens and permanent residents.

Allow companies to voluntarily disclose:

* The number of orders they received and complied with;
* The general categories of information they produced; and
* The number of users whose information was produced in those categories.

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