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| **cid:image001.jpg@01D37B30.78B8A5D0**     |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) | | December 22, 2017 | 202-224-6244 | |

**Heller-Backed Bill to Fight Nationwide Rape Kit Backlog Heads to President’s Desk**

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced that the [Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=AC843F36-1234-4CB6-BC03-173239BDD647), legislation that he introduced along with Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Michael Bennet (D-CO), is now heading to the President’s desk for his expected signature following its approval by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes, strengthens, and extends the SAFER program in an effort to reduce the nationwide rape kit backlog. In addition to reauthorizing this program, the legislation highlights the importance of and need for pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners in responding to children suffering from abuse.

“I’m pleased this legislation to deliver victims of sexual assault swift justice is now headed to the President’s desk for his signature,” **said Heller.** “This bill will help Nevada law enforcement reduce the backlog of untested rape kits and ensure critical evidence isn’t left uncovered. I’m proud to partner with Senator Cornyn on this legislation and see it receive wide, bipartisan support. As a strong supporter and author of proposals to crack down on these horrific crimes and empower victims, I look forward to seeing the President sign this legislation into law.”

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