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**Heller-Backed Bill to Stop Online Sex Trafficking Sent to the President’s Desk***Senate Passes the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Legislation cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) to help end online sex trafficking is now on its way to the President’s desk after the U.S. Senate passed the bill this afternoon as a part of a larger anti-human trafficking package. [Nevada ranks 9th in the U.S](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states) for the highest number of reported human trafficking cases. In 2017, cases of human trafficking reported in Nevada spiked from 172 cases the previous year to 209 last year, according to recent data from the Polaris Project.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA), S. 1693, ensures justice for victims of online sex trafficking and holds perpetrators of the heinous crime accountable by eliminating protections for websites that knowingly assist, support, or facilitate online sex trafficking. It also gives state and local prosecutors authority to prosecute websites that violate federal sex trafficking laws. The legislation previously passed the U.S. House of Representatives as part of HR 1865 in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 388-25, and President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

“Victims of human trafficking deserve their day in court,” **said Heller.** “For too long federal liability laws have safeguarded websites like Backpage.com and perpetrators of online sex trafficking. That’s why I applaud the Senate for passing the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act so Congress can help bring an end to this crisis and ensure that these sites are held responsible for their criminal actions. Make no mistake, this historic legislation will help bring justice to victims and save lives, especially in my home state of Nevada, which recently saw an uptick in the number of reported human trafficking cases. I’m proud to work with Senator Portman on this legislation and look forward to seeing this bill signed into law.”

Since coming to the U.S. Senate, Heller has worked to safeguard Nevadans from human trafficking and put a stop to this heinous crime. Earlier this year, President Trump signed into law two bills Heller cosponsored to fight human trafficking: the [Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, S. 1536](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=AF675B46-1126-41E8-A51B-E54C48674A8C) and the [No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, S. 1532](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=C26F1E78-40BE-4932-BA07-3B4CBDEEFD99). This past summer, the HERO Improvements Act, [legislation he authored to help train disabled military veterans to fight cybercrime](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/9/heller-effort-to-empower-veterans-to-fight-human-trafficking-in-nevada-passes-senate), unanimously passed the U.S. Senate as part of a larger anti-human trafficking proposal, the bipartisan Abolish Human Trafficking Act. In 2016 Heller’s [legislation to require air carriers to help train flight attendants recognize cases of human trafficking](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2016/4/heller-applauds-final-passage-of-faa-bill) was included in the FAA Reauthorization Act, and in 2015, he supported the landmark Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, signed into law by President Obama, which included [his amendment to ensure DHS personnel are prepared to better identify victims and perpetrators of human trafficking](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/4/heller-s-amendment-seeking-justice-for-victims-of-human-trafficking-passes-senate).

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