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**Heller-Backed Bills to Help Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs Now Headed to the President’s Desk**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today applauded the U.S. House of Representatives passage of two Heller-backed bills to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for patients. The bipartisan [Know the Lowest Price Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/9/u-s-senate-unanimously-passes-bipartisan-heller-backed-bill-to-help-lower-the-cost-of-prescription-drugs) (S.2553) and Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act (S.2554) both previously passed the U.S. Senate, and these bills will now be sent to the President’s desk to be signed into law.

Heller is a co-sponsor of the Know the Lowest Price Act, legislation that aims to save Nevadans covered by Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plans money on their prescription drugs. This bill cracks down on contract gag clauses that block pharmacists from telling customers they could pay less for their prescription if they were to pay with cash instead of insurance. For too long, these gag clauses have prohibited pharmacists from helping their customers save money on their prescriptions. For example, it’s been [reported](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/24/us/politics/pharmacy-benefit-managers-gag-clauses.html) that a medication to treat diabetes or high blood pressure may cost consumers who are paying with insurance around $20, however, the same medications may only cost $8-$15 if the consumer pays with cash.

“Pharmacists should be able to speak freely with their patients about their medications to know if they’re paying the lowest price. If paying out of pocket is the most affordable, then pharmacists should be able to share that information to help prevent Nevadans from overpaying for medications that they rely on,” **said Heller**. “By preventing the use of gag clauses, these bills will help patients know the true cost of drugs and save their hard-earned money. We still have a lot of work to do to address the high cost of prescription drugs, but this a positive first step, and I look forward to seeing the President sign these bills into law.”

Additionally, Heller supported the Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act, legislation that would ban the use of gag clauses in group health plans sponsored by employers and individual market health insurance plans.

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