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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** | | February 28, 2017 | [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)  202-224-6244 | |  |  | |  |  |   **Heller’s Bipartisan Bills to Support and Retain Women in STEM Fields Signed into Law**  **(Washington, DC)** –U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) released the following statement after President Donald Trump signed the *Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act* and the *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act* into law:  “Today was a step forward in recognizing the role women can and should play in tomorrow’s economy. These bills provide another avenue to encourage young women to seek a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as ensure women’s entrepreneurial and innovative efforts succeed. With these new laws, even more women will pursue and lead new advancements in technology and innovation, and make the world a better place. I’m proud to have partnered with Senator Klobuchar to move these important pieces of legislation into law,” **said Senator Dean Heller**.  **Background:**  These bipartisan bills encourage, recruit, and support women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.  The *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE)* *Women Act* will further advance America’s space science exploration through support of initiatives such as NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS; Aspire-Inspire; and the Summer Institute in Science, Technology, Engineering and Research. The legislation will also require a report from NASA to Congress on how it plans to achieve the goals laid out in the bill. U.S. Senator Dean Heller is the sponsor for the INSPIRE Women Act in the Senate while Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) is the lead Democratic cosponsor. Representative Barbara Comstock (R-VA) is the author of the legislation in the House.  The *Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act* amends the *Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act* to authorize the National Science Foundation (NSF) to encourage its entrepreneurial programs to recruit and support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory into the commercial world. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) is the sponsor for the Women in Entrepreneurship Act in the Senate while Senator Heller is the lead Republican cosponsor. Representative Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) is the author of the legislation in the House.  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |