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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) | | May 19, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Commends House Passage of Anti-**  **Human Trafficking Legislation**  *Senator’s amendment included in final passage*  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (S.178). Included in the legislation was U.S Senator Dean Heller’s (R-NV) amendment to ensure Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel are trained and equipped to better identify victims and perpetrators of human trafficking. Heller’s amendment also allows funds to be used to strengthen Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces across the country, which investigate heinous crimes, such as the production of child pornography and human trafficking. Following House passage, Heller issued this statement:  “Every day, countless innocent victims are bought and sold into modern-day slavery here in America.  I am pleased to see the House pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which is critical legislation to help combat these heinous crimes. I’m also proud that my amendment is included in this bill to ensure our law enforcement agencies have the tools and resources necessary to prevent the serious threat of human trafficking and protect America’s most vulnerable,” said **Senator Dean Heller**. “I urge the President to sign this vitally important legislation into law. No doubt, we need to do all that we can to end this disgraceful and disgusting crime once and for all.”  **Background:**  In April, [Heller’s amendment passed the U.S. Senate](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=26685325-b451-44f7-8ba0-ca99fa0b9977) as part of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (S. 178). In March, Senator Heller spoke on the Senate floor about his amendment. You can click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q50Oj_6u8Z8&feature=youtu.be&list=UUTS6f940sIirkO6ICyx4ksw) to watch his speech.  Representative Mark Walker (NC-06) introduced companion legislation – the [Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2015](https://walker.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/walker-introduces-legislation-combat-human-trafficking). That legislation [unanimously passed](https://walker.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/house-unanimously-approves-human-trafficking-detection-act-2015) the U.S. House of Representatives in January.  ###  [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) |