

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Neal A. Patel

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**Heller Voices Opposition to Suspending Iran Sanctions**

**(Washington, DC)** – Today, United States Senator Dean Heller spoke at the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs hearing titled, “Perspectives on the Strategic Necessity of Iran Sanctions.” More specifically, Heller voiced his concerns about eased sanctions and the negative impact this could have on the Middle East and Israel.

**Photo**

**Click here to watch video.**

**REMARKS AS PREPARED:**

Thank you Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Brown for holding this hearing today.

In assessing the nuclear agreement with Iran, my assessment is this:  I cannot imagine a higher risk versus reward scenario than this agreement.

Crippling sanctions brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place.  And by suspending these sanctions, I am very concerned that the U.S. has deteriorated the leverage that Congressional action provided this Administration.

That is why today is so important. We need to understand what impact eased sanctions are having on Iran and whether it is bringing them closer to producing a nuclear weapon.

Furthermore, it has always been the policy of the United States through resolutions passed with nearly unanimous support by Congress that Iran should not have the ability to enrich uranium, even for peaceful purposes.

Yet the interim agreement has effectively codified Iran’s right to enrich uranium, all in the hope that Iran will keep its promise to allow international inspections and cease enrichment activities.

A nuclear Iran is not in the best interest of the Middle East or Israel, and I am concerned this deal has created security risks and uncertainty—not only for the United States, but also for our regional allies.

I am glad this Committee is holding this hearing and hope it will move forward with legislation that will hold Iran accountable as the negotiations continue and allow for proper Congressional oversight.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

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