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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | April 12, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Fights to Protect Taxpayers from Identity Theft**  **(Washington, DC)** –Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke at the Senate Committee on Finance hearing titled, “Cybersecurity and Protecting Taxpayer Information.” During the hearing, Heller emphasized the importance of safeguarding taxpayers’ private information to address the growing threat of identity theft by cybercriminals during tax-filing season. Click here or below to watch.   |  | | --- | | **Photo** | | *“I believe we have an obligation to the American and Nevadan taxpayers to ensure that the IRS not only lives up to its mission of providing top-quality service but also protecting taxpayers’ sensitive information.”*  **Background:**  In the 2013 tax year, identity thieves stole almost $6 billion in fraudulent tax refunds, according to the IRS. On average, taxpayers whose returns have been compromised wait 278 days for their account to be corrected and identity theft victims spend six months and $1,300 to correct their records. |   ###  [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) |