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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | June 15, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Files Three Priorities to CJS**  *Includes Tourism and Travel Amendment Protecting Nevada*    **(Washington, DC)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller issued the following statement after filing three amendments to the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017.    “It is no secret that tourism and travel are the backbone of Nevada’s economy, supplying our communities with jobs while generating significant revenue for the state. Fortunately, Nevada is second to none when it comes to providing world-class hospitality to visitors. This is why I have introduced an amendment prohibiting a blacklist of American cities hosting conferences and conventions to federal agencies. Nevada’s cities are consistently recognized for their ability to offer premiere convention and conference experiences and amenities for attendees. They should be promoted not blacklisted,” said **Senator Dean Heller**.  Additionally, Senator Heller filed an amendment to prohibit funding for the Department of Justice’s Operation Choke Point and filed his No Budget, No Pay Act as an amendment.    **BACKGROUND:**     1. **Protect America's Cities from Government Blacklist Act Amendment**  * **Purpose:** This amendment prohibits any funding for the purpose of establishing a blacklist of American cities, likes Las Vegas and Reno, from hosting federal agency and executive branch conferences and conventions  1. **Prohibit funding for Operation Choke Point Amendment**  * **Purpose:** This amendment prohibits any funding from being used to carry out the Department of Justice (DOJ) program known as “Operation Choke Point.” The DOJ led initiative Operation Choke Point, which includes other federal agencies, devised a list of certain “high-risk merchant” categories with the intent of “choking-off” these merchants’ access to payment systems and banking services. This list appears to have been created with no public input, no compliance guidance or metrics for private entities to follow, and with disregard for the legality of a merchant’s operation. Further, the list has been used as a pretext by DOJ to limit essential banking services for some industries out of favor by this Administration.  1. **No Budget No Pay Amendment**  * **Purpose:** This amendment would require Members of Congress in both chambers to pass a concurrent budget resolution, as well as all 12 regular appropriations bills by the beginning of the fiscal year. If Members of Congress fail to do so, then they will not be paid.   ###  [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) |