|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich |
| April 21, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Fights for Women Veterans****(Washington, DC)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) will speak at the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Hearing on “Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans.” The hearing was requested by Senator Heller [earlier this year](http://1.usa.gov/1Gd38jg) and examined what progress the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made in offering gender-specific care to women veterans. In February, Senator Heller sent a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs requesting the committee hold a hearing to assess the VA’s efforts to care for our nation’s women veterans and returning female service members. Attached is a copy of that letter.Today, nearly 2.3 million women are U.S. veterans, including 27,000 in Nevada. Given the number is expected to rise, Senator Heller has taken the lead by introducing the bipartisan [Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=3edf4cbe-8e98-45e6-8472-3530376f3f18) (S. 471). Heller’s legislation, cosponsored by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) will do the following:* Require VA to establish standards in VA health care facilities to meet the specific needs of women veterans and integrate these standards into prioritization for construction projects.
* Analyze women’s health outcomes as a performance measure for VA medical center executives.
* Require every VA medical center to have a full-time obstetrician and/or gynecologist.
* Improve outreach to veterans by requiring VA to provide state veterans agencies with contact information for veterans.
* Require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of VA’s ability to meet the needs of women veterans and their privacy and security in VA facilities.

The Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act has been endorsed by:* [Disabled American Veterans](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e0410c89-f33e-443e-b177-b53a578ad810/DAV%20Letter%20of%20Support%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Wounded Warrior Project](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/fa69608d-9575-4aad-a54f-93e99f9e7af6/Wounded%20Warrior%20Project%20Letter%20of%20Support%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Military Officers Association of America](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2b7eee8c-47c0-4ad5-8192-7d348ec26660/MOAA%20support%20letter%20S%20471.pdf)
* [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/59f9c6a6-eba5-4218-ac47-23af1dc8d304/IAVA%20Support%20Letter%20-%20S471.pdf)
* [Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/338c0a68-144b-4f58-b712-8e03be0b0d03/WVAC%20Support%20letter%20S471.pdf)

In March, the [Senate agreed to Heller Amendment #456](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=37bd7c42-fdb3-4eb6-bacc-9afc1e260f90) to the FY2016 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), which ensures Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities properly meet the needs of women veterans by taking into account their safety, privacy, and dignity. The amendment was cosponsored by Senators Murray, Bob Casey (D-PA), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).###http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png |