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**In Case You Missed It: Heller Demands Answers on New VA Choice Program**

**Washington, D.C.** – During a Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) asked Secretary Shulkin a number of questions about the new VA Choice Program. Heller’s concerns stem from multiple concerns and issues facing Nevada veterans as the VA implements this new program—especially in rural communities like Ely, Nevada.

[Click [here](https://youtu.be/5l0YTSIvfeU) or the above image to watch]

In May, Heller highlighted the Choice Program’s failure of Nevada’s veterans, in particular those who rely on the William Bee Ririe Hospital in Ely, Nevada. Rural communities like Ely are home to hundreds of veterans, and Heller argued that we need to make sure the Choice Program – and the VA – doesn’t leave rural veterans behind. It’s critical that veterans living in Ely and surrounding areas receive timely care in their community, not from a location hundreds of miles away.

Heller has been in frequent contact with the VA about the hospital’s contract. While Heller appreciated the VA ensuring veterans have access to [the William Bee Ririe Hospital](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=BB515DFE-4AFE-4C89-84A7-1CB10379BB06) through September, he also called for a [permanent solution](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=BB515DFE-4AFE-4C89-84A7-1CB10379BB06).

Heller is a senior member of the Senate Veterans’ Affiars Committee and also is the Co-Chair of the Senate’s Backlog Working group. He remains committed3 to Nevada’s 300,000 veterans.

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