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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) | | April 6, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |   **ICYMI: Heller Seek Accountability from the IRS this  Tax Season**  **Washington, D.C.** – As April 15th approached, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) is pushing for accountability from the IRS and the federal government. During a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Heller discussed accountability measures, fraud protection, and bipartisan legislation he is co-authoring with IRS Commissioner XXXX. For years, Heller has championed bipartisan legislation that works to make our government more accountable to Nevada’s taxpayers. Click HERE or below to watch.  **Background:**  U.S. Senators Dean Heller joined with Sherrod Brown (D-OH) – members of the Senate Finance Committee – to introduce legislation that would support free tax preparation sites that help individuals and families file their income tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Permanence Actof 2017would make permanent an Internal Revenue Service (IRS)-administered matching grant program for volunteer tax preparation sites nationwide. The bill marks the first bipartisan legislation to authorize VITA permanently and follows clearance of a similar bipartisan measure in the Senate Finance Committee last year.  The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who make $54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers by helping prepare and file their income tax returns.    During the 2016 income tax filing season, VITA programs nationwide filed more than 3.8 million federal income tax returns. This helped Americans claim approximately $1.1 billion they’d earned over the tax year.  U.S. Senators Dean Heller also joined with Deb Fischer (R-NE), and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) to re-introduce bipartisan legislation, the Stop Improper Federal Bonuses Act. This legislation would prohibit bonus pay for federal employees who commit major infractions under their agency’s code of conduct. It would also require employees who engage in egregious misconduct to repay their bonuses.  TheStop Improper Federal Bonuses Actwould prohibit a federal agency from awarding a bonus to an employee for five years after an adverse finding that could have resulted in a long suspension, removal or jail time. It would also require the employee to repay any bonuses awarded for any year in which an adverse finding is made.     |  | | --- | | **###** |   [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) |