

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Neal A. Patel

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**Heller Sets High Expectations with Bradley**

**(Washington, DC)** – Today, United States Senator Dean Heller spoke at the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing, addressing the pending nomination of Leigh A. Bradley as General Counsel to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, about the importance of addressing the backlog and giving veterans better health care.

**PHOTO**

**Click here to watch video.**

REMARKS AS PREPARED:

Thank you Chairman Sanders.

I want to begin by welcoming Ms. Bradley.  It is a great honor to serve Veterans, and I look forward to hearing about what you plan to bring to the VA.

It is no secret that the VA has not been working well for veterans, and Secretary McDonald is trying to reform this agency.

And every office has a part to play, including the General Counsel.

I will tell you, Ms. Bradley, what I have told every VA nominee I’ve met with – My priority is representing Nevada’s veterans and what is important to them.

That is why every time you come before this Committee, I will be asking about what you are doing in your position to help reduce the claims backlog, improve VA health care, and anything else that will benefit our nation’s veterans.

The claims backlog is especially important since Nevada has one of the worst VA Regional Offices in the nation and the highest percentage of backlogged claims.

I know the General Counsel’s office has a role in this process at the appeals level and accrediting veterans service organizations.

I am also interested in the VA’s handling of whistleblowers and what your role in that process might be.

I want to make sure that, moving forward, every employee working at a VA facility in Nevada feels comfortable with reporting problems they see without fearing retaliation.

As a member of this Committee, I take this oversight seriously and want to be assured that you are up for the task.

Again, thank you for being here and I look forward to addressing these issues further in my questioning.

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