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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel |
| April 28, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Teams with Veterans Committee to** **Unveil New Legislation** **(Washington, DC)** –Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke at a press conference to unveil legislation with colleagues on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee to reform the agency and improve the delivery of care and benefits to our nation’s veterans and their families. The bipartisan agreement, known as the Veterans First Act, ensures our brave heroes are put first and provided the care they were promised. Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a4_lkUwdfs) or below to watch the video: **Background:**Below is a list of legislation led by Senator Heller included in the Veterans First Act: * [**21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (S.1203)**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/5/heller-casey-lead-va-backlog-working-group-in-release-of-new-report-legislation-to-address-claims-delay) – Senators Heller and Casey, as Co-Chairs of the Senate VA Backlog Working Group, [championed](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=1299C421-9AAD-43C2-81E9-B621045D8093) this legislation designed to reform the VA disability claims process and create a system that can withstand surges in disability claims without generating another claims backlog.
* [**Creating A Reliable Environment (CARE) for Veterans’ Dependents Act**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=b9bbdc1a-a737-4ede-bffc-b439efecb39a) – Senators Heller and Murray fought for this legislation which would ensure that children of homeless veterans are eligible for services provided to that veteran by VA-funded facilities.
* **Veterans Affairs Research Transparency Act of 2015 (S. 114)** – Senator Heller’s legislation promotes greater transparency and sharing of research related to veterans, their health, and other issues by requiring the VA to make taxpayer-funded research for the VA publicly available.
* [**The Express Appeals Act (S.2473)**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CAFA13F6-BE47-46DD-8447-CAB1D5D314FE) – Senator Heller co-led, along with his colleagues Senators Sullivan, Tester, and Casey, legislation establishing a new, voluntary five-year pilot program to help reduce the large backlog of appeals at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).  The bill would establish a new channel whereby veterans, upon receiving a decision on an original disability claim by the VA, would have the option to file an express appeal with the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), in lieu of the traditional appeals process.

**###**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 |