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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) 202-224-6244 | | July 29, 2015 |  |   **Heller Zeroes in on Nevada’s Homeless Veterans**  *Praises Nevada organizations helping homeless veterans, recognizes there is more work ahead*  **(Washington, DC)** –Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke at the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs hearing titled, “Ending Veteran Homelessness.” During the hearing, Senator Heller spoke on the need to further progress on ending veteran homelessness. He also referenced improvements that have been made throughout Nevada and applauded the numerous community organizations making a difference in the lives of veterans struggling with this issue.    [**CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijwYoag1yXk)  Earlier this year, Senators Heller and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the [*Creating A Reliable Environment (CARE) for Veterans’ Dependents Act*](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=3617984a-f049-4263-a67a-c5e9314e8578), a bill designed to ensure children of homeless veterans are also eligible for services provided to that veteran by VA-funded facilities.  **Senator Heller’s Remarks as prepared:**  Thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing today to examine veterans’ homelessness.  At this Committee, we talk a lot about failures with VA health care, ending the VA claims backlog, and improving management at the VA.  But when we look at how well our nation is caring for veterans, understanding how many of these heroes are homeless should be the place we start.  The men and women who served our country and risked their lives should never have to be in this situation.  However, the reality is that Las Vegas at one point was among the worst for veterans’ homelessness.  I think the VA has been focused on this issue and improvements have been made.  But as long as we have one homeless veterans, we must be doing all we can to provide them the resources they need to get back on their feet.  I also believe that this is not solely a VA effort. It is non-profits and organizations in the community that provide invaluable services to help veterans put a roof over their head and stability in their lives so they can be independent in the long-term.  Nevada is lucky to have quite a few organizations in both Southern and Northern Nevada that deserve to be commended for all that they do.  It is also programs like the VA’s *25 Cities Initiative* that creates better coordination with community leaders and local elected officials to find solutions to address veterans’ homelessness in a way that fits that city’s needs.  In combination, all these efforts have contributed to a 44% decrease in the number of homeless veterans in Southern Nevada since last year.  I am proud that Las Vegas is part of this initiative, and I hope that it can be expanded to other Nevada cities, like Reno, where over 150 veterans remain homeless this year.  Today I’d like to ask a few questions about how we can continue to reduce veteran homelessness across Nevada and our nation, as well as what we can do to prevent it from happening in the first place.  ###  [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) |