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**In Case You Missed It: President Signs 15 of Sen. Heller’s Bills into Law**

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[**President signs 15 of Sen. Heller’s bills into law**](http://elkodaily.com/opinion/columnists/president-signs-of-sen-heller-s-bills-into-law/article_8c3d0850-ccbe-5e03-8b63-a9aa44d96083.html)

Elko Daily Free Press

WASHINGTON – In 2017, President Trump signed into law a total of 15 bills that U.S. Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., authored or helped introduce and move over the finish line. Of the more than 400 bills that the U.S. Senate passed, the President has currently signed into law 97 of them.

“From legislation that holds the VA accountable to a bill that encourages women entrepreneurship, I’m proud that the president signed more than a dozen bills that I helped introduce and pass,” said Heller. “As a senior member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I have worked to move legislation that improves care and strengthens education benefits for Nevada’s veteran population. In 2017, we certainly made progress, but we have a lot of work to do next year and I look forward to continue fighting for solutions that will help Nevadans get ahead.”

The majority of Heller’s bills that are now law are focused on helping the more than 300,000 veterans who live in Nevada. That includes legislation to expand veterans’ GI Bill education benefits and ensure veterans’ continued access to life-saving surgeries. The President signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, legislation that Heller authored to give veterans more options when appealing their disability claims in Reno.

Heller is the author or original cosponsor of the following bills that were signed into law in 2017:

• S. 1362, Guard and Reservists Education Improvement Act (authored by Heller): Restructures the G.I. bill eligibility tiers for certain Guardsmen and Reservists.

• S.1024, Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor of the Senate substitute amendment to H.R.2288 that ended up becoming law): Reformed the VA appeals process for disability claims.

• S.1094, Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor): Provides the VA expedited firing authority for bad VA employees.

• S.1598, Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor): Provides comprehensive reform of the Post 9/11 G.I. educational assistance program and includes three of Heller’s provisions.

• S. 42, INSPIRE Women Act (Authored by Heller): Directs NASA to encourage women to study STEM and pursue aerospace careers.

• S.114, VA Choice and Quality Employment Act (Heller bill used as vehicle): Provides $2.1 billion in funding to continue the Veterans Choice Program.

• S.83, Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship (Heller a co-author): Authorizes the National Science Foundation to encourage its entrepreneurial programs to recruit and support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and into the commercial world.

• S. 1489, Veterans Education Relief and Reinstatement Act Guard and Reservists Education Improvement Act (Heller original cosponsor): Ensures veterans who suffer a permanent school closure are able to have their G.I. bill benefits reinstated.

• S. 1277, VET TEC Act (Heller original cosponsor): Establishes pilot program to allow veterans to enroll in non-traditional courses related to technology careers like coding.

• S.327, Fair Access to Investment Research Act (authored by Heller): Would give investors access to more research and information on Exchange Traded Funds.

• S. 3152, Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act (co-authored by Heller): Promotes employee ownership through stock options in privately held businesses.

• S 784, The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor): Increases veterans’ disability benefits based on rising costs of living.

• S. 583, The American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor): Amends federal law to allow Community Oriented Policing Services grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as law enforcement officers.

• S.782, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2017 (Heller original cosponsor): Reauthorizes the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that combat online child exploitation across the country.

• S.2183, CHIP Stability Act (authored by Heller): Provided states with certainty for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for December 2017.

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