Hi Amber,

Here is a statement for the record that can be attributed to me regarding the Klobuchar legislation you inquired about:

"This legislation will be the subject of a hearing tomorrow, and should continue to move through the proper process as should any bill introduced in the Senate. Senator Heller will monitor the progress of the legislation as it moves forward." – Chandler Smith

Additional information, for your use on background:

Here is the statement Heller provided when he voted in favor of opening debate on the Manchin/Toomey legislation:

# [Heller on S. 649: Let’s Have the Debate](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a6ef357a-48f7-4260-907e-d30ff21be728)

**(Washington, D.C.) –** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today voted in favor of moving debate forward on S. 649, the Firearms Bill.  Following the vote, Senator Heller issued this statement:

"Let me be very clear. As a strong supporter and bold defender of the Second Amendment, I refuse to compromise Nevadans' constitutional rights. It is because of my solid support for the Second Amendment that I am not afraid of having this debate. I remain staunchly opposed to any proposal that would create a national gun registry or would infringe upon Nevadans’ ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights. At the same time, I do think it’s important to explore ways to keep guns out of the hands of felons and the mentally ill. As the deliberative body, let’s move forward with an open debate and give Americans an opportunity to better understand where their representatives in Washington stand on this issue,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Here is the statement Heller provided when he opposed Manchin/Toomey:

[**Heller to Oppose Manchin-Toomey Amendment**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=26bbd326-1dca-4f57-8785-36c33fdfe0f6)

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement in opposition to the Manchin-Toomey amendment to S. 649.

“When it comes to national policy choices on issues such as Constitutional liberties, gun violence and public safety, the stakes could not be higher. The enormity of this issue has weighed heavily on me. While I was home this past weekend, my family and I ate at the Carson IHOP where four people lost their lives and several were injured. The survivors of that senseless shooting in the morning hours of September 6, 2011, deserve this debate.

“I believe very strongly that our current background check system needs strengthening and improving, particularly in areas that could keep guns out of the hands of felons and the mentally ill.  At the same time, I cannot support legislation that infringes upon the Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.  Despite the good faith efforts of Senators Manchin and Toomey, the onerous paperwork and expansion of federal power mandated in this legislation are too great of a concern. I believe that this legislation could lead to the creation of a national gun registry and puts additional burdens on law-abiding citizens. For these reasons, I cannot vote for this legislation,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Additionally, as we discussed, Senator Heller does support background checks. He just did not agree with the Manchin/Toomey proposal. He does think the system needs improving. That is why, for example, he cosponsored and voted for Graham’s NICS Reporting Improvement Act of 2013 (S.480).

S. 480 closes a loophole in current law which allows certain mental incompetency adjudications to go unreported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

You will notice in Senator Heller’s statement on Manchin/Toomey, he mentioned the need to keep hands out of the mentally ill. Here is additional legislation of note that Senator Heller has cosponsored:

* Cosponsored legislation (S.134) with Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) that requires a more in-depth look at how violence in video games and in movies affects the mentally ill.
* Cosponsored legislation introduced by Senator Al Franken (D-MN), the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act of 2013 (S. 162). This bill helps law enforcement officers respond to mental health crises in their communities and improves access to mental health treatment for people who end up in the criminal justice system.
* He is also a cosponsor of the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2013 (S.153) with Senator Begich and the Firearm Straw Purchasing and Trafficking Prevention Act (S.730) with Senator Cruz.

Senator Heller also supported an amendment offered by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) which helps improve behavioral programs related to mental health and substance abuse disorders.  This legislation looks at how Congress can assist local agencies to promote behavioral interventions in schools.

Thanks,

Chandler