U.S. Senate

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Chandler Smith

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**Media Advisory:
U.S. Senators Dean Heller, Bob Casey Announce VA Backlog Working Group**

**(Washington D.C.) – On a conference call tomorrow**, **Thursday, July 11, 2013**,U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bob Casey (D-PA) will announce the launch of the bipartisan VA Backlog Working Group. The Working Group is a united effort by lawmakers, veterans, and Veterans Service Organizations to put an end to the Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claim backlog.

**Who:** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV)

 U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)

**What:** U.S. Senators Dean Heller and Bob Casey host conference call to announce VA Backlog Working Group

**When:** Thursday, July 11, 2013

 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. ET / 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PT

**Where:** Call in number: (855) 428-0808
Conference ID: 990283

**RSVP**: Chandler Smith (Heller), chandler\_smith@heller.senate.gov

April Mellody (Casey), april\_mellody@casey.senate.gov

**About the VA Backlog Working Group:**

The VA backlog has dated back to 1994, when Jesse Brown was Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Since then, efforts to end the backlog have failed. Numerous laws, blue ribbon commissions, Inspector General Reports, Government Accountability Reports, and hearings in both the House and the Senate have examined ways to fix this inefficiency. There have been pledge of support and copious resourced dedicated to this effort, and guarantees from the VA that, in time, this problem will be fixed.

Congress has a responsibility to our nation’s veterans. Working on a bipartisan basis, this Working Group is committed to tackling the backlog, taking a broad approach that the current system is not working and must examined through an expansive lens of possible solutions.

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