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| November 5, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Files Amendments Addressing Vets Needs and Holding VA Accountable Ahead of Veterans Day****(Washington, DC)**– Recently, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) filed four amendments to the 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act specifically focused on improving and enhancing the experiences of America’s veterans with regard to benefits and health care needs in addition to holding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) accountable by prohibiting bonuses due to abuses of authority by VA employees.   “It is past time the Senate had an opportunity to consider and amend an individual appropriations bill, and addressing the needs of our nation’s veterans is a good place to start. All of these amendments put our men and women who served in uniform first by holding the VA accountable to its commitment to deliver high quality care and benefits with integrity. “My VA accountability amendments ensure that senior executive service employees who abuse their authority are not receiving bonuses and that VA and the Department of Defense finally set clear milestones for making interoperable electronic health records a reality.  Furthermore, I want to ensure every VA hospital is equipped with the proper personnel to handle the unique health care needs of our nation’s female veterans.  Lastly, we must uphold our promise to the Filipino Veterans who served during World War II and protect their benefits from being used to fix VA’s budget mishaps. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, these issues remain at the forefront of my policy agenda, and I hope they will be attached to the larger bill as it moves forward,” **stated Senator Heller.**   **Background on Amendments:**1. ***Ensuring Accountability at VBA Amendment –***Prohibits bonuses to Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Senior Executive Service employees in light of revelations about abuse of authority by VBA SES employees.
2. ***Achieving Interoperable Electronic Health Record Amendment –*** Ensures the VA is providing clear timelines and goals toward reaching an interoperable electronic health record with the Department of Defense.
3. ***Ensuring Women Veterans Access to Care Amendment –*** Ensures every VAMC has a full-time gynecologist to meet women’s health needs.
4. ***Protecting Filipino Veterans Benefits Amendment –*** Prohibits the VA from transferring funds from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC) Fund.

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