

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

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**Heller, Manchin: Make “No Budget, No Pay” Permanent**

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) sent a letter to Budget Chairwoman Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) urging support for the permanent version of “No Budget, No Pay.”

Frustrated with Congress’s consistent failure to pass a budget, Senator Heller introduced the [No Budget, No Pay Act in July 2011](http://heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=51b80ed5-63eb-4242-9fc4-c17d07f1f4f6), with Senator Manchin joining as lead Democratic cosponsor. The bill requires Congress to pass a concurrent budget resolution and appropriations bills on time each fiscal year in order to get paid. Congress passed [a version of “No Budget, No Pay”](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=ff90b9e3-faf2-4964-bf4d-7e482df55e26) earlier this year that withholds pay from Members of Congress if they don’t pass a budget this year.

A PDF of the letter is attached to this release.

**Full text of the letter below**:

May 14, 2013

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

We wish to express our support regarding your recent efforts to move the budget process forward by convening a conference committee with the House of Representatives.  As proponents of restoring regular order to both the budget and appropriations process, we believe reaching a final agreement is necessary in order to provide our nation with a fiscal blueprint for future spending.  We agree with you that we must continue this debate in an open and public manner and will encourage our colleagues to convene a bipartisan bicameral conference committee.

We are now in our fifth month of the year without a budget agreement providing Congress with a fiscal framework before considering important legislation related to authorizing levels, appropriations, and the national debt.  While we were pleased to see a version of our No Budget, No Pay legislation, finally spur both the Senate and the House of Representatives to each pass a budget resolution, it is clear now that Congress must pass our original version of the No Budget, No Pay Act in order to force a final binding budget agreement. The standing principal of legislation is that if Members of Congress do not do their job by passing a final bicameral budget, they should not get paid.

There is still has an enormous amount of work to do to rein in spending, eliminate our job-crushing level of debt, and create certainty for families and businesses.  Our nation needs to get its fiscal house in order, and excessive federal spending cannot be addressed in a real way without a budget.  By passing binding version our No Budget, No Pay Act, we can ensure that Democrats and Republicans work together to make the hard decisions that our fiscal situation requires both now and in the future.  Now more than ever Members of Congress must lead by example — not only to restore order to our nation’s fiscal future, but also to restore the faith of the American people. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dean Heller

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