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**Heller: Backlog is too Much for VA to Handle**

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement regarding the Veterans’ Affairs (VA) announcement that they have been paying employees overtime in order to clear up the backlog.

“The VA in the past month has mandated that all the claims processors must focus solely on all claims that are two years or older. In order to do this, they have forced employees to work overtime. While I appreciate the renewed focus to buckle down on reducing the backlog, this raises the question as to whether the employees at the VA are even capable of handling the massive backlog. It’s clear the backlog is too much to handle and we may need to look outside the VA to fix this mess.”

Since joining the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee in the 113th Congress, Senator Heller has been [vocal about the need to reduce the backlog in benefits claims](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXC4jeUNR-o&list=UUYab42ViNKdBV4Ov6bQnSFw&index=15). Most recently, Senator Heller introduced the [Accountability for Veterans Act](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=d64b4ee4-4063-4831-8a85-c068295dcde4), legislation to help increase the rate at which the VA obtains the records it needs from other federal agencies in order to process benefits claims. In March, Heller [questioned](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=1ec03abe-c21a-4c98-b4ad-5872b46c635b) the VA Under Secretary for Benefits about the backlog of claims facing Nevada veterans.

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