Press Release:

U.S. Senator Dean Heller

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Stewart Bybee

February 16, 2012 202-224-6244

**Heller Lauds Payroll Tax Compromise**

Agreement Extends Unemployment Benefits

**(Washington, DC) –** Today U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced his support for the conference agreement on the payroll tax holiday, unemployment extension, and the Medicare “Doc Fix”.

“I am pleased that both Democrats and Republicans came together with a balanced package to provide those who are going through difficult times much needed relief. This deal extends the payroll tax holiday to provide relief to struggling workers and offers a helping hand to those who have fallen on hard times and are seeking work. While this package is a win for the American people, there is no question that Congress must do more to help turn our economy around, get people back to work, and place our nation on the path towards long-term prosperity,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Heller led the fight in the Senate and authored legislation [to extend the temporary payroll tax holiday](http://heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=b1cf7e00-6d41-4f07-b1f8-5f97390c3bb8) without raising taxes on job creators.

“There is no question that Nevadans continue to face tough times. I do not believe the people of Nevada should be held responsible for the failed economic policies that have come out of Washington. While I am disappointed this bill does not provide a full extension of unemployment insurance, it does provide a longer extension for distressed states like Nevada which is something I have strongly advocated for,” added Heller.

In a [letter](http://heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=736e0cde-338b-4b19-8cde-3fcc654249d1) to the conferees, Heller advocated for the preservation of unemployment benefits for states like Nevada that continue to experience high unemployment. The compromise allows for 73 weeks of unemployment insurance for states with unemployment rates greater than 9%. A copy of that letter has been included with this release.

###