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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) | | November 19, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller, Gillibrand, Ayotte, and Markey Shed Light on PPD Shadow Looming Over New Mothers**  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced S. 2311, the Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act of 2015, in the United States Senate to fight the reality of postpartum depression (PPD) for new mothers across the country. The bipartisan legislation provides targeted, federal funding to screen and treat maternal depression.  “Nearly 1 in 8 women experience postpartum depression. Thousands of women across the country battle this condition every year, and this legislation assures that women are able to get the screening and treatment they need. The good news is with the proper resources and early diagnosis, 90 percent of mothers with PPD are successfully treated.  I’d like to thank Senators Gillibrand, Ayotte, and Markey for bringing this issue to the forefront and supporting this bipartisan legislation,” said **Senator Dean Heller.**  “This bill would provide new opportunities for pregnant and postpartum women to receive postpartum depression screenings and new connections to treatments,” said **Senator Gillibrand**. “This is a vitally important medical service that should be routine for any new mother in America. This legislation would help us achieve that goal.”  “I’m pleased to join my colleagues Senators Heller, Gillibrand, and Markey in introducing the Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act. Postpartum depression is treatable but unfortunately women struggling with this condition are often stigmatized, discouraging them from seeking treatment. This should not be the case, and our bill will help bring greater awareness to this issue so that women can feel comfortable in coming forward to ask for help.  Our bipartisan bill would also provide additional resources for the screening and treatment of pregnant women and new moms who need assistance, thereby improving the health of both the mother and her baby,” stated **Senator Kelly Ayotte**.  **Senator Ed Markey** added, “Our mothers are heroes, but even heroes need help. Resources to screen and treat maternal depression will help lead to healthier mothers, children and families. It’s time we shine a light on the issue of postpartum depression and reach out with a strong helping hand to all the mothers across Massachusetts and the country who do the same for our families every day.”  *Attached is a PDF version of the bipartisan legislation.*  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |