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**President Signs Heller-Backed Bill to Stop Online Sex Trafficking in Nevada**

**WASHINGTON** – President Trump today signed into law the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA), bipartisan legislation cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), that will help end online sex trafficking in Nevada and across the United States. Nevada ranks 9th in the U.S for the highest number of reported human trafficking cases. In 2017, cases of human trafficking reported in Nevada spiked from 172 cases the previous year to 209 last year, according to recent data from the Polaris Project.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA), S. 1693, ensures justice for victims of online sex trafficking and holds perpetrators of the heinous crime accountable by eliminating protections for websites that knowingly assist, support, or facilitate online sex trafficking. It also gives state and local prosecutors authority to prosecute websites that violate federal sex trafficking laws.

“I thank the President for signing this bill today and I commend Senator Rob Portman for his work on this issue,” said Heller. “Unfortunately, Nevada has the nation’s ninth-highest number of reported cases of human trafficking, an unconscionable crime that often involves vulnerable women and children. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act will help deliver justice to victims and make sure that sites are held responsible for their criminal actions.”

Since coming to the U.S. Senate, Heller has worked to safeguard Nevadans from human trafficking and put a stop to this heinous crime. Earlier this year, President Trump signed into law two bills Heller cosponsored to fight human trafficking: the Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, S. 1536 and the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, S. 1532. This past summer, the HERO Improvements Act, legislation he authored to help train disabled military veterans to fight cybercrime, unanimously passed the U.S. Senate as part of a larger anti-human trafficking proposal, the bipartisan Abolish Human Trafficking Act. In 2016 Heller’s legislation to require air carriers to help train flight attendants recognize cases of human trafficking was included in the FAA Reauthorization Act, and in 2015, he supported the landmark Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, signed into law by President Obama, which included his amendment to ensure DHS personnel are prepared to better identify victims and perpetrators of human trafficking.

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