

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Megan Taylor |
| January 4, 2018 | 202-224-6244 |

**President Signs into Law Heller-Backed Bill to Fight Human Trafficking***Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act Now Law*

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) today announced that the Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, [legislation he cosponsored to help fight human trafficking](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=BE67DEB7-E982-4115-9CD3-C44663F739F3), has been signed into law by President Donald Trump.

The news arrives a week after [Heller highlighted that in 2017, President Trump signed into law a total of 15 bills that he authored or helped introduce](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=45CA3448-AC0D-42D6-A7FC-828F5DCBC6E5) and move over the finish line.

Specifically, the Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, S. 1536, requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to designate an individual tasked with coordinating human trafficking prevention efforts within the federal agency and further increases support to educate commercial drivers on how to recognize and prevent human trafficking.

“I applaud the President for signing into law this critical piece of bipartisan legislation that will help bolster federal efforts in the ongoing fight to end human trafficking,” **said Heller.** “We should be doing everything in our power to prevent and stop this vile crime, and this bill will go a long way toward protecting Nevada’s vulnerable women and children. As a long-time champion of supporting and authoring proposals to combat human trafficking in Nevada, I’m hopeful that we will build on this progress during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. We must not forget that this form of modern-day slavery is a crime that is all too often hidden in plain sight, and that’s why working together at the local, federal, and state level is critical to preventing future victims.”

Nevada ranks 11th in the U.S for the highest number of reported human trafficking cases. Since coming to the U.S. Senate, Heller has worked to safeguard Nevadans from human trafficking and put a stop to the industry.

This past summer, the HERO Improvements Act, [legislation he authored to help train disabled military veterans to fight cybercrime](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/9/heller-effort-to-empower-veterans-to-fight-human-trafficking-in-nevada-passes-senate), 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](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2016/4/heller-applauds-final-passage-of-faa-bill) 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](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/4/heller-s-amendment-seeking-justice-for-victims-of-human-trafficking-passes-senate).

**###**

