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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) | | January 20, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Disappointed in Failed Vote to Properly Vet Refugees**  **(Washington, DC)**– United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement after the minority blocked consideration of the American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act in the United States Senate, a measure to improve the vetting process before certain refugees are admitted into the United States:  “As an elected official, I have a duty to ensure the safety of Nevadans above all else. As one of the first voices in Nevada to demand a thorough review of the refugee vetting process, I’m extremely disappointed in today’s vote. The American SAFE Act is a commonsense bill that simply requires comprehensive background checks for refugees coming from Iraq and Syria. It also requires certification that these individuals do not pose a threat before they can be admitted into the U.S.  Without clearly defined safeguards and criteria put in place to assess refugees seeking admittance into our country, those who voted against this measure are jeopardizing the safety of Americans.” said **Senator Dean Heller**.  **BACKGROUND**  Senator Heller demanded oversight of refugee applications back in November of 2015. He sent letters to [Governor Brian Sandoval](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=3d8c2e6d-ed8c-4830-8e38-b303b0b753c4), as well as [Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/6d18ba12-73d0-41cb-a67d-69647370230a/Letter%20to%20DHS%20State%20re%20Syrian%20Refugees%2011.16.15.pdf) and Department of State Secretary John Kerry, expressing his concerns.  ###  [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) |