

**For Immediate Release: Contact:**

April 16, 2015 Neal A. Patel or Michawn Rich 202-224-6244

**Heller: Veterans’ Claims Backlog Latest in Slew of VA Scandals**

**(Washington, DC)**– United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), a member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the Senate VA Backlog Working Group, issued the following statement after the Inspector General released yet another report about manipulation of dates on veterans’ disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

“Trust is built with consistency. Yet, the VA system again finds itself engulfed in another scandal. For years I have been saying it is time for Congress to step in and address the VA claims backlog. Much like the Reno VARO, many VAROs across the country are suffering from poor management. We’ve seen the books being cooked in Oakland, Philadelphia, Little Rock, Honolulu, and Houston. This proves it is time for an overhaul of the entire system.

“It is clear from the IG report there is a culture of dishonest behavior pervading the VA system itself, resulting in direct harm to our nation’s veterans. America’s heroes deserve to know whether or not the VA backlog is actually being reduced.

“As Co-Chair of the Senate VA Backlog Working Group, I introduced legislation last year, the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, to fix the claims process and bring greater accountability to the VA. In the coming weeks, I will be reintroducing this bipartisan legislation and will continue pushing the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee to make this bill a priority.”

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