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**Senate Passes Historic Tax Relief Bill with Heller’s Support**

*Bill Includes Heller-Scott Amendment Doubling the Child Tax Credit*

**Washington, D.C. –** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), a member of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, today applauded the U.S. Senate’s passage of the [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/hatch-releases-modifications-to-senate-tax-plan), legislation that will deliver tax relief to hardworking Nevadans, [boost middle class income by nearly $2,500](https://taxfoundation.org/senate-tax-cuts-and-jobs-act-state-impact/), and [add more than 8,300 jobs in Nevada](https://taxfoundation.org/senate-tax-cuts-and-jobs-act-state-impact/). According to the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation, every income category of Nevada’s roughly 1.4 million individual tax return filers will receive a tax cut.

In Nevada, [median household income is $7,000 lower today than it was 10 years ago](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MEHOINUSNVA672N) and [Nevadans are more likely to be living paycheck to paycheck than families living in nearly every other state](https://www.gobankingrates.com/making-money/10-states-least-likely-live-paycheck-paycheck/). At the same time, childcare expenses have skyrocketed, [averaging nearly $10,000 a year for an infant in Nevada](http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/The-True-Cost-of-Day-Care-in-Nevada-231511991.html). This is why an enhanced child tax credit is so important to helping families begin to confront the rising costs of raising their children, [which is now more than $230,000](http://time.com/money/4629700/child-raising-cost-department-of-agriculture-report/).

“The U.S. Senate today passed sweeping legislation that will give hardworking Nevadans and Americans throughout the country the break that they deserve,” **said Heller.** “Whether it’s the single mother from Gardnerville who doesn’t receive child support and works full-time, or the police officer and teacher with two kids living in Las Vegas who say they’re doing the very best that they can to get by, I continue to hear that families in my state are struggling to cover their expenses. That’s why I have been fighting to keep the Senate at work until we pass tax cuts that allow hardworking Americans to keep more of their paychecks, and why I’m proud that my provision to double the child tax credit from current law was included in the final product.”

Heller along with Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) secured a provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that would [increase the child tax credit from $1,000 to $2,000](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=ADAE007F-013A-4ADE-B306-8BF1465069EC), or double it from current law.

**Heller added,** “Think about this: doubling the child tax credit could mean enough money for a family of four to cover [more than three months’ worth of groceries](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/01/grocery-costs-for-family/2104165/) or purchase [more than 9,000 diapers](https://www.target.com/p/huggies-little-snugglers-diapers-giant-pack-select-size/-/A-15414462#lnk=sametab&preselect=47908186). The benefits of an enhanced child tax credit, however, extend beyond freeing up money for families to spend on day-to-day costs, it also allows them to better plan for their futures. For example, Sarah, a single mom living in Nevada, said that she used her child tax credit to help her and her four children move out of a family shelter and pay rent for a year in advance.”

The Senate bill also includes Heller’s provision to make it easier for startups and businesses [to give employees an ownership stake in their company’s success](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=42F977DB-BFAF-4668-81AD-AD805E5128E8), and his [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/3/heller-brown-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-boost-free-tax-preparation-and-filing-services), which helps low-income taxpayers keep more of their money by supporting free tax preparation sites. The Senate bill nearly doubles the standard deduction to $12,000 for an individual and $24,000 for a couple filing jointly. Now more than 90 percent of Nevadans will not have to itemize their deductions, which will save these taxpayers significant time and energy when it comes time to filing their taxes and they will also see significant savings in their tax liability. Additionally, the legislation increases the deduction of expenses for teachers in Nevada by 100 percent and preserves the medical expense deduction, the mortgage interest deduction, and the treatment of student loan interest or tuition forgiveness.

“My dad was an auto mechanic and my mom was a school cook, and they told us that if we work hard and play by the rules, then we too can achieve the American dream. But many Americans think that isn’t possible anymore. This is a piece of legislation that will empower American families and help restore faith in the American dream by giving tax cuts to the middle class, creating jobs, and growing our economy. And I’m proud to have played a role in getting it passed,” **said Heller.**

**Background on the Senate’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**

* Adds more than 8,300 jobs in Nevada and boosts middle class income by nearly $2,500.
* Nearly doubles the standard deduction to $12,000 for an individual and $24,000 for a couple filing jointly.
* ***Heller provision***: Doubles the child tax credit from current law.
* Increases the deduction of expenses for teachers in Nevada by 100 percent.
* ***Heller provision***: Helps low-income taxpayers keep more of their money by supporting free tax preparation sites.
* ***Heller provision***: Makes it easier for employers to give employees an ownership stake in their company’s success.
* Preserves the medical expense deduction.
* Preserves the mortgage interest deduction
* Preserves the treatment of student loan interest or tuition forgiveness.

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