No Budget, No Pay is just one of the steps Congress needs to take in restoring responsible fiscal policies to Congress. Congress continues to kick the can down the road on fiscal decisions, whether it’s through addressing sequestration or the continuing resolution.  Sound fiscal policies start with passing a budget and then passing all of your spending bills on time, which is what No Budget, No Pay requires.

Senator Heller remains committed to the principle of “No Budget, No Pay” and will continue to fight to make this principle permanent. The version of “No Budget, No Pay” passed by Congress is a step in the right direction, but putting our nation on sound fiscal footing requires long-term certainty. Senator Heller’s legislation requires Members to pass a budget resolution every year by the start of the fiscal year and also holds Members accountable for passing appropriations bills. If they miss the deadline for any of these items, then pay their pay is withheld. In the meantime, Senator Heller is hopeful that the President and Senate Majority will come to understand just how desperately Nevadans and Americans across the country need Congress to get its act together and pass a long-term budget.

On background:

I disagree with your premise that No Budget, No Pay has had no teeth. The same day that No Budget, No Pay passed the House (and the same day that Sen. Heller and six Senators held a presser to reintroduce No Budget, No Pay in the Senate), Senator Murray said she would attempt to move a budget out of Committee.

As you know, the No Budget, No Pay legislation that passed through Congress applies to this year. Senator Heller’s legislation holds Members of Congress accountable for passing a budget, and passing all twelve appropriations bills through Congress by the start of the fiscal year. Starting February 1, 2015, Congress is required to do so every year. Senator Heller’s No Budget, No Pay proposal does not allow the No Budget, No Pay principle to expire.

Off the record:

Tying the Administration’s actions to No Budget, No Pay is like comparing apples and oranges. Congress has no control over when the Administration submits their budget. Regarding Chairwoman Murray, No Budget, No Pay is not prescriptive regarding the details of the budget process at the committee level and even regarding floor but simply says that a Congress must pass a concurrent budget resolution by the end of the fiscal year.  How they make the sausage is up to them.