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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | April 20, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Amendments Protect Taxpayers from Fraud and ID Theft While Holding IRS Accountable**  **(Washington, DC)** – Today, the Senate Finance Committee approved two bills, which included several priorities helping Nevadan taxpayers from U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV). The bills were considered by the Finance Committee and several of Senator Heller’s legislative priorities were included within the Chairman’s mark. The bills were: a bill to Prevent Identity Theft and Tax Refund Fraud and a bill on the Taxpayer Protection Act. As a member of the Senate Committee on Finance, Senator Heller has worked closely with Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) on developing and implementing proposals to protect Nevadan taxpayers from fraud, as well as continue holding the IRS accountable.  “Unfortunately, every minute of the day, nineteen people become victims of identity theft. It is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country with almost ten million incidents occurring each year. Last year, over 14,000 Nevadan taxpayers were personally affected. As identity thieves become more sophisticated, the IRS must increase their security protections for every taxpayer. That’s why I offered amendments to combat fraud against the IRS and was pleased to see them included in the Chairman’s Mark for the Identity Theft bill. I was also pleased to see amendments addressing IRS accountability included within the Chairman’s Mark for the Taxpayer’s Protection Act,” said **Senator Dean Heller.**   |  | | --- | | **Background Information on Senator Heller’s Legislative Modifications:**  The Heller amendment included in the identity theft bill would promote education and outreach on identity theft to vulnerable taxpayers, while also assessing ways to strengthen security features for those taxpayers who e-file their tax return.  The Heller amendment included in the Taxpayer Protection Act addresses the following: the IRS is currently developing a “Future State,” which would generally transition the IRS to a largely online service. The IRS has said it would still provide in person or telephone services to those taxpayers who prefer that. Lawmakers and the public know very little about this “Future State.” This amendment would hold the IRS accountable to its promise by requiring the IRS to provide public progress reports on its transition to a “Future State.”  An additional Heller amendment included in the Taxpayer Protection Act would require the IRS to give sufficient notice to Congress before closing a walk-in center or Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs). In states, such as Nevada, many taxpayers do not have access to the internet, much less trust federal agencies, such as the IRS. These taxpayers require and want in-person access to IRS facilities. This amendment would disallow the IRS from closing a walk-in facility without first reporting to Congress 90 days in advance the reasons for the proposed closure and how taxpayers located in rural areas will be served in the event of the closing. Congressional lawmakers would be authorized to deny a closure, depending on facts and circumstances. |   ###  [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) |