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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) | | June 4, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Amendment To Protect Commissaries Passes Senate**  **(Washington, DC)**– U.S. Senator Dean Heller’s (R-NV) amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed the Senate today. The amendment protects the critical commissary benefit for service members, military retirees, and their families by analyzing the effects of proposed privatization of the Defense Commissary Agency. Upon passage of the amendment, Senator Heller issued this statement:  “Privatizing the defense commissary system would affect thousands of military men and women, retirees, and their families. Before jumping to privatization, we need to ensure our service men and women – who, by the way, are already seeing reductions in pay and benefits – are not negatively impacted,” **said Senator Dean Heller**. “After everything they have done for us and after all the sacrifices they have made, our brave men and women should never have to worry about whether they can make ends meet because of proposed changes to critical benefits like the commissary system.”  **Background:**  The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2016 contains a provision that requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to submit a plan to privatize commissaries throughout the United States. The legislation also mandates a study and reporting requirements to analyze its effects. Heller’s ***Protecting the Defense Commissary Benefit*** ***Amendment*** builds on to the reporting requirements to further analyze the privatization impact on eligible beneficiaries, how it would affect cost-savings for commissary patrons, whether it would result in commissary closures, and whether it is feasible for overseas military bases.  A PDF amendment is attached to this press release.  ###  [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) |