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| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4a/US-Congress-UnofficialSeal.svg/480px-US-Congress-UnofficialSeal.svg.png   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** | | December 17, 2015 | [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) (Heller) 202-224-6244  [Greg Lemon](mailto:greg.lemon@heller.senate.gov) (Heck) 202-225-3252 |   **Heller, Heck Applaud Senate Passage of Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act**  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) applauded Senate passage of the *Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015*. This legislation expedites access to public lands so accredited volunteer search groups can conduct searches for missing persons. Following Senate passage Heller and Heck issued these statements:  “Today’s Senate passage illustrates the broad support for this legislation. Democrats and Republicans agree the terrible ordeal experienced by the Goldberg and Tucker families should never be experienced by anyone else. I’m proud to have teamed with Congressman Heck in ushering this bill through both chambers of Congress and send it on its way to the President’s desk to be signed into law,” **said Senator Dean Heller.**  “Today marks the culmination of more than two years of work to get this bill to the President's desk. I want to thank Senator Heller for his leadership in advancing this bill through the Senate. But most especially, I thank Jodi Goldberg, the late Keith Goldberg's sister, for her dedication to getting this bill passed. She has done everything from testifying before a House subcommittee to meeting with her senators to build support for the bill, and we certainly could not have reached this point without her effective advocacy. I'm pleased I was able to help get this done for families like the Goldbergs,” **said Congressman Joe Heck.**  **Background:**  The *Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015* requires that a decision on issuing a permit for accessing public lands be provided to groups within 48 hours of application and that groups are not responsible for obtaining an insurance policy given they waive federal government liability.  In January, Senator Heller and Congressman Heck introduced the legislation, which was initially drafted in 2013 following the discovery of the bodies of Keith Goldberg and Air Force Staff Sergeant Antonio Tucker in the Lake Mead Recreation Area by Good Samaritan search and rescue teams. In both cases, the volunteer search teams had to wait nearly one year to obtain the proper permits and insurance before conducting their searches. In Goldberg's case, remains were discovered in less than two hours; in Tucker's it took less than two days.  In April, the [U.S. House of Representatives passed the *Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qslzyFt0RyA) by a vote of [413-0](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll174.xml). Approval by the full U.S. Senate is the final step before this bill is sent to President Obama to be signed in to law.  **In The News**  Washington Examiner: [How red tape allows people to get away with actual murder](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/how-red-tape-allows-people-to-get-away-with-actual-murder/article/2577481)  ###  [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) |