

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Chandler Smith

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**Heller Amends Sportsman’s Bill with Good Samaritan Act**

*Amendment expedites permitting process and helps bring closure for the families of missing persons*

**(Washington, D.C.)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) offered [the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=9715d90d-3c76-472b-ab9b-86242a83004a) as an amendment to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2014. This initiative, which passed unanimously in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year, allows expedited access to public lands for Good Samaritan search and recovery organizations so they may conduct searches for missing persons and help bring closure for the families of missing persons.

“In Nevada we have seen far too many instances where bureaucracy impedes searching for missing persons on public lands. My amendment, The Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act, helps cut through the red tape and brings closure for families,” said **Senator Dean Heller**. “The Nevada family has dedicated men and women who volunteer to help their fellow citizens in times of tragedy and this amendment ensures they are able to do so in an expedited fashion. This bill passed unanimously in the House with Congressman Joe Heck’s hard work, and it is my hope the Senate can do the same thing.”

**Background:**

Heller’s amendment, cosponsored by Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), requires permits for accessing public lands be issued 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 March, Senators Heller and Warner penned a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee requesting quick consideration and mark up of the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act (S. 1049). That letter can be read [here](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=527a47ce-a65e-4064-82dd-275564e669f5).

Attached is a copy of the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act.

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