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**Heller Applauds $450,000 Justice Department Grant to Combat Violence Against Women**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today applauded the U.S. Justice Department’s (DOJ’s) announcement that the Office of the Nevada Attorney General will receive a $450,000 grant for the Improving the Criminal Justice Response Program authorized by Heller supported legislation, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Specifically, the Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program grant, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, will help fund local efforts to ensure that these crimes are taken seriously by law enforcement and our justice system. Additionally, this grant will provide more resources to advocacy agencies in order to better support victims during the criminal justice process.

“As a husband and father of two daughters, I am grateful for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault,” **said Heller**. “Ending these heinous crimes is a top priority of mine, which is why I have been a continuous supporter of the Violence Against Women Act. I welcome the announcement of this $450,000 grant to the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, and I look forward to the continuation of programs to bring justice to victims and provide victims with vital services to find safety and rebuild their lives. VAWA initiatives have changed lives for the better, and I will continue to be a strong supporter of these programs.”

Heller has been a long-time advocate for the reauthorization of VAWA and earlier this year urged the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund VAWA programs for the remainder of fiscal year 2018 as well as fiscal year 2019.

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