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**Heller Backs Bipartisan Bill to Extend CHIP Program**

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced today that he’s cosponsoring U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch’s (R-UT) Keeping Kids’ Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act, bipartisan legislation to ensure stability for Nevada’s vulnerable children by extending funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years.

Heller, a member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over the issue, recently spoke about the CHIP’s importance to Nevada earlier this month during a hearing examining the program. CHIP provides medical coverage and care to vulnerable children in Nevada who otherwise may not get care.

“This bipartisan legislation will help ensure that Nevada’s children and families who rely on this program for health coverage will have the certainty they need,” **said Heller.** “I’m honored to join Chairman Hatch in pushing for this proposal and will continue to work with my colleagues on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee to extend this critical program.”

**Background:**The Keeping Kids’ Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act was introduced by U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) last week. The current reauthorization for funding will expire on September 30, 2017.

The proposal:

* Extends CHIP funding through fiscal year 2022
* Maintains federal matching rate at current statutory levels through FY 2019, changes to 11.5 percent for FY 2020, and returns to a traditional CHIP matching rate for fiscal years 2021 and 2022; and
* Creates protections and flexibility under the maintenance-of-effort provision.

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