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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Megan Taylor |
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**Heller, Cornyn, Bennet, and Klobuchar Re-Introduce SAFER Act**

**Washington, DC –** U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) XXXXXX

**Co-Lead Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act (SAFER) Reauthorization--RECOMMENDATION—SUPPORT.** This bill reauthorizes the SAFER Act grant to audit and track rape kits, emphasizes the importance of pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners, allows Debbie Smith DNA Backlog grants to be used to enhance prosecutors’ role in ending the rape kit backlog, and directs the Department of Justice to develop best practices for retaining DNA evidence.

**Cosponsors:** Four way lead Cornyn-Heller-Bennet-Klobuchar

**Background:** The original SAFER Act was developed in reaction to numerous reports of untested rape kits being discovered in police storage facilities.  It is still imperative for police to audit their backlog and track their kits, which is why the grant needs to be reauthorized.

**Considerations:** This bill was developed in conjunction with sexual assault advocacy groups, lab groups, prosecutor groups, and child advocacy organizations. The Nevada Coalition was comfortable with an earlier version of the bill, and I will get their sign off on this as well, but I’m sure that there won’t be any issues because the bill is concise.

**DH History:** You cosponsored the original SAFER Act and have signed letters to support funding of the Debbie Smith DNA program.

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