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U.S. SENATOR
STATE OF NEVADA

Dean Heller Fund

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Dear _____

Knowing your interest in gun control, I wanted to give you an update on legislation I have cosponsored and supported recently.

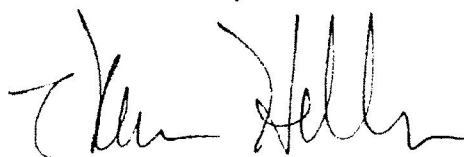
In this past year alone, our nation has faced devastating tragedies and witnessed grave injustices that we never thought imaginable. My thoughts and prayers continue to go out to all the victims and families who are grieving in the wake of these senseless acts of violence. As a father and a grandfather, protecting our children and keeping our communities safe are values about which I care deeply. I continue to work hard to ensure that public safety and mental health awareness is at the forefront of Congressional debates, and would like to let you know about legislation I have supported thus far in the 113th Congress.

I have been adamant from the beginning of the gun control debate that our current background check system needs strengthening and improving, particularly in areas that could keep guns out of the hands of felons and the mentally ill. We need to increase submission rates of disqualifying records by states as well as close existing loopholes in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). You may be interested to know, I am an original cosponsor of bipartisan legislation, the NICS Reporting Improvement Act (S.480), to strengthen our current background check system and close loopholes related to the mentally ill. This legislation provides clarity to existing law and is a common sense approach to preventing unnecessary violence.

In addition, I believe more must be done to ensure Americans who struggle with mental illness do not fall between the cracks. I am a proud cosponsor of bipartisan legislation, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act (S.162), which would improve access to mental health services for people in the criminal justice system and give law enforcement officers the tools they need to identify and respond to mental health issues in the community. During the recent gun control debate, I supported Senator Harkin's (D-IA) amendment to the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act (Amdt.730 to S.649) to reauthorize and improve behavioral programs related to mental health and substance abuse disorders. This amendment would specifically assist local agencies to promote positive behavioral interventions in schools. I was pleased to support this bipartisan amendment and will continue supporting legislation to help address mental health needs within our communities.

These are just a few steps Congress can take now to help make our homes, schools, and communities safer. I appreciate your input and encourage you to continue keeping me informed of the issues that matter to you.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER