



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2017

Dear Community Leaders:

I appreciate the opportunity to welcome you to the 2017 Southern Nevada Youth Homeless Summit. This forum provides us with an opportunity to collaborate and partner in our efforts to defeat the rampant youth homelessness in our community. I commend each of you for your attendance at this summit and for your daily work to serve young individuals struggling for food and shelter.

Young Nevadans have homeless rates higher than in any other state. As a response, our community has rallied to address this issue, but each of us must continue to give our dedicated efforts to help our community's most vulnerable individuals. Compounding the problem, homeless youth are susceptible to truancy, substance abuse, violence, and are often targeted by predators in the sex trade industry.

I am fully committed to helping Nevada's communities combat the many causes and impacts of homeless youth. Recently, the Senate passed two bills which I cosponsored, the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act and the Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act. While targeted, these bills attempt to provide federal authorities the ability to prevent sex trafficking and to rescue those who are victims of it, particularly children. I support, and will continue to support, additional efforts to combat child sex trafficking and to prevent children from being sold into sex slavery. Every year, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department rescues more than 120 youth from sex trafficking. As a father of four, I am terribly saddened and disgusted that children continue to be held captive in this, or any, form of slavery. I will continue to fight on their behalf and am genuinely inspired by each of your efforts to do the same.

I thank you, once again, for the opportunity to show my support for this important event and to express my gratitude for your efforts. Please accept my best wishes for a successful and productive event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Heller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dean Heller
United States Senator