



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2018

Dear Community Leaders:

Welcome to the 2018 Southern Nevada Youth Homeless Summit! This occasion provides you with the ability to forge new relationships and tactics on confronting youth homelessness throughout our state. I appreciate your work to serve young people and I commend Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth and the Las Vegas Sands for their shared commitment to ending youth homelessness.

By building new partnerships and sharing best practices, I am confident your collaboration will lead to substantive changes in the lives of those youth who spend their days and nights on the streets. As a community, we all share the burden to lift up young people who have fallen on hard times. If we fail them, they likely will not finish school and may travel a path of desperation simply to survive. Unfortunately, they may quickly become dependent on crime and drugs to relieve the pain of poverty. Worse, a young person becoming homeless is the largest contributing factor in being exploited by sex traffickers. Each year, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department rescues more than 120 youth from sex trafficking.

Each of your efforts are needed to bring a multi-dimensional approach to addressing this problem. Without question, there are many factors involved and our community's efforts must reflect the various circumstances which result in youth homelessness. By targeting the cause, we can prevent homelessness one individual, and family, at a time. 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. 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