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2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

MAJORITY (202) 225-2927
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2625
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July 14, 2009

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Ms. Charlene Frizzera
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Frizzera:

Congress continues to consider legislation dramatically impacting our nation's health care system and economy. We are confident that you share our belief that it is vital for every Member of Congress to have access to sufficient information on each provision under consideration. The American people expect their elected representatives to understand each detail of any health care changes that will impact their lives.

A number of proposals for health care reform are circulating in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Of great concern to both Members of Congress and the American people is the potential cost of these plans. Recently, the Congressional Budget Office provided an early estimate on one plan that amounted to a \$1.6 trillion dollar investment over 10 years. This is an enormous investment, and we cannot ask the American taxpayer to foot the bill without guaranteeing that their money will be well spent.

Because of this we write to you today on the issues of fraud and waste within the Medicare and Medicaid system. As many of the proposals circulating Congress involve a public plan or option in which the Government will pay for health care, we must look to the only comparable federal programs, Medicare and Medicaid, to analyze the potential risk for fraud and abuse.

The Attorney General of the United States has claimed that every year we lose tens of billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid funds to fraud. The Congress cannot in good conscience consider the possibility of enacting a health care reform that could top a trillion dollars without first analyzing the fraud in the only comparable programs.

To assist us in understanding the impact of fraud and abuse on the Medicare and Medicaid system, and the implications this may have on future health care reform, we respectfully request the following data and information:

1. Any information on the dollar amount CMS estimates is lost each year to Medicare and Medicaid fraud.
2. Any information on the dollar amount CMS estimates is lost each year within Medicare and Medicaid to events or circumstances that do not qualify as fraud, but that CMS has identified as waste, losses, abuse, or any amount of money considered not properly spent ("waste").
3. Any information on any programs, boards, task forces, departments, or any other organization within CMS that is devoted to combating fraud or waste.
4. Any information on the number of employees devoted to combating Medicare or Medicaid fraud or waste.
5. Any information on the number of attorneys devoted to combating Medicare or Medicaid fraud or waste.
6. Any information on the amount of money spent by CMS to combat Medicare or Medicaid fraud or waste.
7. Any information on a state-by-state basis analyzing the cost of Medicare or Medicaid fraud or waste.
8. Any information containing specific details on the categories of fraud and waste affecting Medicare or Medicaid, and the total dollar amount per category.

Given this is a technical assistance request for basic data that does not involve policy matters, the release of such information should not be delayed by the clearance process utilized when policy matter are at stake. In particular, we would hope that this information is constantly monitored and readily available. It would be incredibly disconcerting if, as this country looks to provide health care to even more Americans, it became apparent that we do not have a proper system in place to monitor and combat the potential for fraud and waste in the only comparable programs.

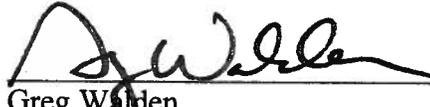
Please provide all currently available data within five business days and provide us with a timeframe for compiling the remaining information. As you are certainly aware, the

President has called on Congress to act quickly on the issue of health care. Thus, we believe that this information must be provided as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations