



December 12, 2011

The Honorable Tom Carper  
United States Senate  
512 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Carper and Coburn:

On behalf of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA), I thank you for your efforts to combat waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare.

The American Chiropractic Association is a professional society composed of doctors of chiropractic (DC) whose goal is to promote the highest standards of ethics and essential patient care, contributing to the health and well being of millions of patients. The ACA is the largest association in America representing the chiropractic profession. ACA enthusiastically supports your legislation, S.1251, the "Medicare and Medicaid Fighting Fraud and Abuse to Save Taxpayer Dollars Act of 2011." This legislation, if enacted, will better serve the millions of Americans who depend on Medicare and Medicaid and save taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

Estimates have shown three to ten percent of health care expenditures are lost annually to fraud. Further, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) estimate nearly \$48 billion in improper payments for Medicare were made in fiscal year 2010. The actual figure is likely to be even larger since they do not include undocumented occurrences of theft aimed at defrauding Medicare; the stealing and selling of beneficiary numbers on the black market; and the creation of false healthcare provider organizations that cheat the system at taxpayers' expense.

Common sense provisions in the bill the ACA supports are the prohibition of SSN's being displayed on Medicare ID cards; the establishment of a pilot program to test smart card technology for Medicare ID cards; and the imprisonment and fining individuals who attempt to buy or sell Medicare ID numbers.

Additionally, as Part D spending is estimated to be over \$60 billion in 2012, ACA believes additional scrutiny is needed in the program to ensure proper payments and supports prescription drug reforms in the bill such as prohibiting payment for claims for drugs under part D that do not include a valid NPI; conducting daily updates to the DEA's database of individuals registered to distribute and dispense controlled substances; and performing investigations of claims that contain a registration number not assigned by the AG under the controlled substance act.

Representing the third largest point of entry provider whose physicians consistently seek to improve the quality and lower the cost of healthcare in the United States, ACA appreciates the opportunity to offer our strong support of S. 1251, and looks forward to working with you in curbing waste, fraud and abuse, saving taxpayer dollars and ultimately improving our nation's health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Falardeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John A. Falardeau  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations