

Partnership for
Quality Home
Healthcare
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

October 18, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Carper
United States Senate
513 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,

The Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare is very pleased to announce our endorsement of S. 1251, The Medicare and Medicaid Fighting Fraud and Abuse to Save Taxpayers' Dollars Act (The FAST Act). We believe your measure represents a bold and important step toward eliminating the tens of billions of dollars in fraud and abuse that occurs in Medicare and Medicaid every year. We also feel the FAST Act serves as a powerful example of the progress that can and needs to be made to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid program integrity.

The Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare is committed to advancing positive solutions to problems that affect patients, providers and taxpayers alike. Among our principal areas of focus is program integrity, and we have developed the *Skilled Home Healthcare Integrity and Program Savings* (SHHIPS) proposal as a result. Like the FAST Act, SHHIPS proposes a tough pre-payment claims review process to move Medicare and Medicaid away from the failed "pay and chase" model. SHHIPS also includes credentialing requirements, criminal background checks, a compliance program modeled on the Inspector General's guidelines, and payment reforms that will achieve billions of dollars in savings by preventing inappropriate outlays.

We are also proud to have joined with leading organizations like AARP, Easter Seals, and the National Association for Uniformed Services in an initiative urging Congress to make program integrity reform a top priority. The *Fight Fraud First!* initiative is underway, and we hope that it will help to bring further attention to important measures like the FAST Act as well as benefit-specific proposals like SHHIPS. (For more information about this initiative, please visit <http://www.americansagainstfraud.org>.)

In closing, the Partnership wishes to commend you for your leadership on this vital issue and looks forward to working with you and your staffs to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid program integrity.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Berger
CEO, Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare