



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
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July 19, 2011

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
172 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

The American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) would like to thank you for your efforts to introduce S.1251, the Medicare and Medicaid Fighting Fraud and Abuse to Save Taxpayer Dollars Act of 2011. This legislation has the potential to save taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

Fraud analysts and law enforcement officials estimate between 3% and 10% of health care expenditures (for all payers, including Medicare) are lost annually to fraud. In addition, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) estimated that there was nearly \$48 billion in improper payments for Medicare and \$22.5 billion in the federal share of improper payments in Medicaid in fiscal year 2010. These figures are just the tip of the iceberg and do not include the countless, undocumented occurrences of theft carried out by organized crime rings aimed at defrauding Medicare, the stealing and selling of beneficiary numbers on the black market, and the create of front groups and fake doctors' offices that cheat the system at the taxpayers' expense.

The FAST Act lays out commonsense solutions to rein in system abuses and protect taxpayers from having their Medicare and Medicaid funds pillaged. With a \$14.4 trillion national debt, lawmakers can no longer afford to ignore ballooning entitlement costs.

Sincerely,

The American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons