

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

April 17, 2012

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**BAUCUS TO LOOK AT LANDMARK MEDICARE FRAUD BUST FOR  
LESSONS TO ENHANCE FUTURE EFFORTS**

**Washington, DC** – **Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus** (D-Mont.) will convene a hearing on Tuesday titled “Anatomy of a Fraud Bust: From Investigation to Conviction,” to learn from the successes of a recent sting involving what the Justice Department called “the highest amount of false Medicare billings in a single takedown in [Medicare Fraud] Strike Force history.” The sting resulted in charges brought against 91 people accused of defrauding Medicare for nearly \$300 million. The hearing will take place at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24 in Room 215** of the **Dirksen Senate Office Building**.

Baucus and the witnesses will also look at the new tools health reform gave law enforcement agencies and HHS to protect Medicare and Medicaid dollars from fraud and abuse. Those new tools made last year the most successful ever in fraud crackdowns, with a total of \$4 billion recovered.

The health reform law created new ways for Medicare to screen health care providers before they are accepted into the program, preventing criminals and past offenders from attempting fraudulent transactions. It also formed a singular database for Medicare billing information, which allows the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice to better coordinate and share information on past offenders and schemes.

The law also works proactively by giving officials the authority to suspend payments and investigate suspicious claims before they are paid, eliminating the need to track down fraudulent payments later. It increases civil and criminal penalties for those who commit fraud, and it increases the tools for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program, a joint effort between the Department of Justice and HHS, to fight health care fraud.

The witnesses at Tuesday’s hearing will be:

- The Honorable Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- The Honorable Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida

- Dr. Peter Budetti, Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Ms. Kathleen King, Director of Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office

**Who: Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Chairman**

**What: Hearing on the anatomy of a fraud bust**

**Where: Dirksen Senate Office Building 215  
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**When: April 24, 2012  
10:00 a.m.**

Media are encouraged to attend the hearing or to view the webcast and witness testimony at <http://finance.senate.gov/hearings>.

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