

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**BAUCUS TO HOLD HEARING ON NEW TOOLS ENACTED
IN HEALTH CARE REFORM TO CRACK DOWN ON FRAUD,
SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS**

Washington, DC – Senate Finance Committee Chairman **Max Baucus** (D-Mont.) will convene a hearing next week to review new efforts, enacted in the nation’s new health care law, the Affordable Care Act, to prevent health care fraud. These unprecedented new tools give law enforcement officials the information they need to stop waste, fraud and abuse before it starts, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. The hearing, entitled “Preventing Health Care Fraud: New Tools and Approaches to Combat Old Challenges,” will take place at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2 in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.**

Billions of dollars are stolen in fraudulent health care schemes each year, but thanks to increased efforts to crack down on those who perpetrate those schemes, a record \$4 billion was recovered in 2010. The Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control program (HCFAC) alone recovers nearly seven dollars for every one dollar invested in its operation. Before the new health reform law was enacted, Medicare often paid fraudulent claims before officials had the information or opportunity to pursue the perpetrators. The Affordable Care Act ends this inefficient and costly trend by giving law enforcement and Medicare officials new screening and qualification tools that create a proactive system to weed out criminals and prevent fraudulent claims from occurring in the first place. The new policies will return stolen money to the Medicare and Medicaid programs by stopping repeat offenders, screening health care providers for histories of fraud or other crimes, accelerating fraud review processes, increasing funding to the HCFAC program and toughening penalties for those who commit fraud.

The witnesses at Wednesday’s hearing will be Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Deputy Administrator Peter Budetti. As Inspector General, Mr. Levinson is the senior official responsible for audits, evaluations, investigations, and law enforcement efforts, relating to HHS programs and operations. Dr. Budetti has principal responsibility for program integrity policies and operations in the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

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

WHAT: Hearing on health care fraud prevention efforts

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

WHEN: Wednesday, March 2, 2011
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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