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## **Harkin: HHS Inspector General Report Shows Funding for Food Safety Needed Now, More Than Ever**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) today issued the following statement in response to a report released today by the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The [report](#)

(<http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region10/10901500.asp>) , “Food and Drug Administration's Monitoring of Food Recalls” (A-01-09-01500) found that FDA's guidance for developing and implementing food recalls was not adequate to ensure the safety of the nation's food supply because it was not enforceable. In addition, FDA did not always follow its own procedures for ensuring that the recall process operated efficiently and effectively.

"This report shows compellingly that FDA must take far stronger and faster action to protect American consumers by getting contaminated food imports off the market. Recalls must be started more rapidly and FDA needs to follow up more carefully to make sure the recall actually happens. Congress greatly strengthened FDA's hand to enforce food recalls in the Food Safety Modernization Act, but regrettably FDA's ability to carry out that law and the recommendations in this OIG report will be badly impaired if FDA is starved of critical funding as the House's agriculture appropriations legislation would do."

Last year, Harkin, as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, co-authored the [Food Safety Modernization Act](#)

(<http://help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=9e567d8c-86e6-44a2-b20c-73de54c37e67&groups=Chair>). He is also a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee that funds FDA and USDA.