



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Bipartisan Leaders in Senate and House Urge GAO to Probe Success Rate of Efforts to Identify and Prevent Medicare Fraud**

**WASHINGTON, DC**— Members of the Senate and House today [requested](#) a Government Accountability Office study of the anti-fraud audits conducted by the Medicare program to identify and eliminate fraud and improper payments. Private contractors play an important role in Medicare's fraud and improper payment prevention effort. The requested study focuses on the coordination and effectiveness of the anti-fraud work conducted by these contractors. The members wrote:

"Health care providers are responsible for interacting with, and responding to, each of these contractors. In order for this contractor oversight to at once be effective at detecting improper payments and not unnecessarily burdensome to providers, it must be undertaken subject to a coherent strategic plan, consistent standards and active coordination.

"To this end, we ask that you undertake a study that focuses on coordination among contractor efforts and CMS efforts to oversee these contractors to ensure that they are working efficiently and effectively while guaranteeing that beneficiaries are receiving care to which they are entitled."

The letter was sent by the following members: Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL), Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Rep. Diane DeGette (D-CO), Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA), and Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

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