



April 30, 2014

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Chairman
Senate Special Committee on Aging
G31 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Special Committee on Aging
628 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Nelson and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), we are writing to express our appreciation for your work on the "Stop Schemes and Crimes Against Medicare and Seniors Act."

Our members strongly support efforts to improve fraud prevention in federal health programs, moving away from the government's "pay and chase" approach and adopting the innovative tools and techniques that have been pioneered by private health insurance plans. Detecting and preventing fraud upfront – before it occurs – is a critically important priority for our nation's health care system.

Your bill takes important steps toward ensuring that taxpayer dollars dedicated to Medicare are used for their intended purpose – to meet the health care needs of Medicare beneficiaries. We particularly appreciate your bill's focus on the strong public-private partnership that is facilitating information-sharing between federal agencies, private insurers, and other stakeholders to detect and prevent health care fraud. This type of collaboration is an essential component of the broadly focused strategy that is needed to ensure the integrity of Medicare's payment systems.

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We also appreciate your focus on preventing fraud in connection with the implementation of new medical codes, requiring the independent verification of provider ownership interests, and providing for the ongoing development of new recommendations for protecting the Medicare program from fraudulent schemes. Attention to these areas offers significant promise for strengthening the long-term integrity of the Medicare program.

Thank you again for your thoughtful work on combating fraud in the Medicare program. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Ignagni".

Karen Ignagni
President and CEO