

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 11, 2011

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

I am following up on the March 2, 2011, hearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Medicare fraud featuring testimony from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). I am deeply troubled that witnesses from these agencies could not even approximately gauge the extent of fraud in the Medicare program. I write to you today in the hopes that GAO will be able to provide this information so that we may all move forward in eliminating fraud from the Medicare system and reduce the burden on the American taxpayer.

Please provide written responses to the following requests within two weeks of the date of this letter:

1. Please provide an estimate of the dollar amount lost to fraud each year in the Medicare program. Please include any reports, estimates, or other documents relied on in determining such an estimate, and explain how those documents were used to calculate the estimate.
2. During the 45-year history of the Medicare program, has GAO ever attempted an internal audit or any other kind of internal effort to determine the amount of fraud in the Medicare system? If so, please provide the findings and all documents, estimates, or reports resulting from that audit or effort. If not, why hasn't there been an internal audit or other internal effort to estimate fraud in the Medicare program?

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Sean Hayes of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations