



October 14, 2011

The Honorable Tom Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Carper and Coburn:

Thank you for your hard work in drafting the Medicare and Medicaid Fighting Fraud and Abuse to Save Taxpayers' Dollars Act, also known as the FAST Act.

For decades lawmakers of both parties have shared the common goal of reducing inefficiencies, waste, fraud and abuse within the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Until the passage of the Affordable Care Act, very little was successfully done to stop those seeking to defraud these critical programs. The 2010 landmark law began the process of tackling waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid by providing more resources to impose tougher sanctions on criminals, expand oversight and accountability, and create incentives for agencies to share data.

With the introduction of the FAST Act this past June, you took yet another step forward in combating waste and fraud in Medicare and Medicaid. The Center for American Progress Action Fund applauds these efforts and supports the bill.

Every year Medicare fraud alone costs taxpayers \$60 billion. Overpayments and errors add another \$34 billion. The FAST Act as introduced not only tackles these issues, but also improves data-sharing, increases penalties for fraudulent use of patient and provider information, and encourages seniors to take a role in preventing fraud. In fact, the FAST Act includes many of the recommendations put forth in CAP's May 2011 paper entitled, "Payment Police 2.0: How to Stop Paying Bad Medicare and Medicaid Claims."

The Center for American Progress Action Fund urges Congress to move quickly to enact the FAST Act.

Sincerely,

Winnie Stachelberg
Senior Vice President for External Affairs