



June 27, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
United States Senate  
513 Senate Hart  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
United States Senate  
172 Senate Russell  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Carper and Coburn:

As a leader in cost containment and program integrity services for government healthcare programs, HMS is pleased to support the Medicare and Medicaid Fighting Fraud and Abuse to Save Taxpayers' Dollars Act (or the Medicare and Medicaid FAST Act), which is aimed at eliminating fraud, waste and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid.

HMS has over 25 years in supporting Medicaid agencies as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in containing costs and ensuring that claims are paid accurately and correctly. In fact, each year we recover over \$1 billion for these agencies as a result of our cost containment work. Through our experience, we are keenly aware of the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that are susceptible to fraud, waste and abuse. Our observations are that these vulnerabilities will only continue to grow as enrollment increase in both programs in the coming years. Legislation such as the Medicare and Medicaid FAST Act would continue to support the on-going efforts to strengthen the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. It arms both states and CMS with new as well as enhanced tools to root out fraud and abuse, and helps to ensure healthcare dollars are appropriately spent on the vulnerable population who need it most.

As a Medicaid Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC), HMS was particularly pleased that the legislation included enhancements to the Medicare RAC program and supports the incorporation of these provisions into the Medicaid RAC program as well. We also appreciated the inclusion of the provisions aimed at improving data sharing across agencies and programs. Because HMS is a program integrity contractor in both the Medicaid and Medicare programs we have long advocated that enhanced measures be put into place that would allow for more robust data sharing among these programs.

Specifically, sharing Medicare claims data with Medicaid agencies for the purpose of reviewing care and claims for dual eligible recipients can be very effective in both identifying overpayments and ensuring quality of care. Additionally, sharing data on fraudulent, suspect, and non-credentialed providers will enable both programs to remove bad actors from the system, better control costs, and potentially protect beneficiaries from poor quality services.

Thank you both for your work to protect the integrity of the Medicaid and Medicare programs. S. 1251 offers critical assistance to ensuring the long term sustainability of these government healthcare programs. HMS appreciates the opportunity to offer our support of this legislation and looks forward to working with you both in improving our nation's healthcare system.

Sincerely,



Bill Lucia  
Chief Executive Officer