

FORTNEY PETE STARK
13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/STARK

239 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5065

39300 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 220
FREMONT, CA 94538
(510) 494-1388

PETEMAIL@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 3, 2012

Ms. Marilyn Tavenner
Acting Administrator
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Tavenner:

I am writing with regard to a new Government Accountability Office Report, *Medicare Secondary Payer: Additional Steps are Needed to Improve Program Effectiveness for Non-Group Health Plans*. I requested this report to determine the effect of initial mandatory reporting and to determine what other steps might be appropriate to further improve the operation of the Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) program.

While your agency has reviewed the report as part of the process, I am writing to urge CMS to quickly take action to implement GAO's recommendations. As you know, this program has been fraught with problems for decades. Clearly, improvements are happening. But, more can and should be done.

I am particularly anxious to see CMS analyze new data and consider implementing additional recovery thresholds as well as the recommendation that CMS develop a centralized MSP program website so that interested parties (insurers, attorneys and beneficiaries) can better track the process.

Please provide me with an action plan for implementing these recommendations to further improve the MSP process by May 31, 2012. My staff contact is Debbie Curtis who may be reached at debra.curtis@mail.house.gov, or by phone at 225-5065.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Stark
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
Health Subcommittee