

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

August 9, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We respectfully request that the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Financial Management and Assurance (FMA) team thoroughly review expenditures made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement programs and systems that are not related to the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Last February, the Obama Administration chose to move the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), the agency tasked with implementing much of the Democrats' health care law, into a business unit within CMS. It is no secret that Congressional Democrats vastly understated the extent of funding necessary to implement their massive health care law.¹ We suspect what precipitated this reorganization was the desire by Obama Administration officials to tap into the significant financial resources at CMS' disposal. In fact, one news outlet reported that, "By embedding the CCIIO within CMS, which administers the multi-hundred-billion-dollar Medicare and Medicaid programs, the administration should have greater ease finding funds within CMS to enable CCIIO to operate than as part of the HHS secretary's office, observers said."²

CMS currently serves nearly 100 million of America's most vulnerable – seniors, those with disabilities, and the poor. We are concerned that the diversion of funds and other resources that are intended to serve these vulnerable populations will have far reaching consequences on Medicare and Medicaid program operations.

In order to better understand the magnitude of money and resources being taken from the Medicare program, we request that GAO's FMA conduct a complete full financial analysis, including financial and forensic audits, of CMS activity since the Democrats' health care overhaul was signed into law. Specifically, we request that you examine:

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- The total amount of money allocated to CCIIO through 2014, and the sources of those funds;
- The total amount of money that CCIIO has spent, to date, and the sources of those funds;
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend to implement the health care law through 2014;

¹ Available online at http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/114xx/doc11490/lewisltr_hr3590.pdf.

² Available online at <http://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20110202/BENEFITS11/110209968>.

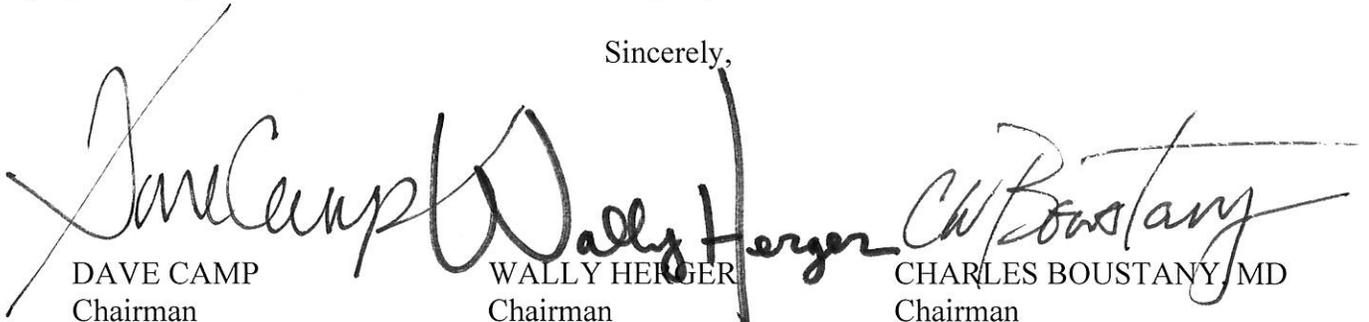
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend on staff salaries through 2014;
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend on advertising or other public relations activities through 2014;
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend on polling and focus groups through 2014;
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend on travel-related expenses through 2014; and
- The total amount of money CCIIO has spent and expects to spend on conferences through 2014.

STAFF RESOURCES

- The number of CCIIO employees, both full and part-time, and the number of CMS employees working on CCIIO-related activities;
- The number of CMS and CCIIO staff, both full and part-time, that had been assigned to the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs that are now working either wholly or in-part for CCIIO; and
- In which divisions within CMS these employees had been working, or still work, prior to their re-assignment to CCIIO.

GAO's FMA prides itself in making "timely, accurate, and useful financial information... available for making decisions, monitoring performance day to day, and maintaining accountability and stewardship." As such, we respectfully request that you provide us with information to our request no later than October 15, 2012. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. If you have any questions please contact Dan Elling, Health Subcommittee Staff Director, at (202) 225-3943, or Mark Epley, Oversight Subcommittee Staff Director, at (202) 225-5522.

Sincerely,



DAVE CAMP
Chairman

WALLY HEIZER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

CHARLES BOUSTANY, MD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight