



National Association of State Medicaid Directors

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

May 21, 2009

Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The State Medicaid Directors applaud your efforts to reduce fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. We were pleased to hear of the joint effort between the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice. We are concerned, however, that the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) did not appear to include the state Medicaid Agency representatives. The work to prevent and enforce actions related to Medicaid fraud begins with the Medicaid Agencies and any effort to strengthen these efforts should begin with them, not exclude them. Truly combating fraud and abuse is a team effort and must include the state Medicaid Agencies to be effective.

We would like to work with you and Attorney General Eric Holder to ensure that the taxpayer dollars that are entrusted to us are spent appropriately and for the very people most in need of the services we finance. I have attached a letter recently sent to the Senate Special Committee on Aging regarding the efforts state Medicaid programs have taken to combat fraud and abuse in their programs.

We would be glad to nominate Medicaid Directors to serve on this Action Team. As you can see by the attached documents, we have aggressive programs and systems in place and could provide necessary coordination between HEAT and the Medicaid programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol H. Steckel".

Carol H. Steckel, MPH
Chair
National Association of State Medicaid Directors



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Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

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