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2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS



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August 30, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21244-1849

Dear Administrator Verma:

I write today to inform you that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is this month's recipient of my Golden Fleece Award for making what appears to be nearly \$1 billion in improper payments.

An audit released by the Office of the Inspector General this month found that in 2014 CMS authorized an estimated \$434.4 million in payments to Qualified Health Plan issuers for enrollees who were not eligible for these payments and a further \$504.89 million in improper financial assistance payments for enrollees without the proper documentation.¹ At a time when healthcare costs are skyrocketing and our nation is over \$20 trillion in debt, it is essential that our federal agencies act as good stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

I am committed to ensuring effective practices at our Nation's federal agencies. Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. *CMS Did Not Always Accurately Authorize Financial Assistance Payments to Qualified Health Plan Issuers In Accordance With Federal Requirements During the 2014 Benefit Year*. Daniel R. Levinson. August 2018