

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2008

The Honorable Michael Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

We are writing regarding very troubling allegations that affiliates of Planned Parenthood in California have intentionally over-billed the government for their distribution of contraceptives.

As you know, the Federal government provides significant support and funding for Planned Parenthood through the Title X program, a 90% Medicaid match for family planning, and a federal program to purchase drugs from manufacturers at a reduced price.

In 2004, California state auditors began a review of all Planned Parenthood affiliates in the state. Only one review of the nine California affiliates, however, was completed before state health officials reportedly halted the remaining audits. The one audit that produced a report, Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties, identified more than \$5.2 million in over-billings during the limited audit period. Other evidence suggests that broad over-billing could have been occurring as far back as 1997.

Since state family planning programs enjoy robust federal funding, the cost of such over-billing would be born in large part by the federal government. Therefore, taking into consideration that the federal government may have been fraudulently charged millions of dollars, we believe a federal audit of each California Planned Parenthood affiliate beginning with fiscal year 1997 and based upon the same criteria utilized by the California Department of Health Services Audits and Investigations Report of November 19, 2004, as enclosed is warranted.

We urge you to direct the Inspector General and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately begin such an audit and further investigation into any improper practices or activities by California Planned Parenthood affiliates or the California Department of Health Services.

We hope you would agree that indications of improper billing practices by those participating in government programs should be thoroughly investigated to protect American taxpayers.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you promptly regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Banks

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Virginia Juy

John

Bob Inglis

Tom F45M

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Patrick

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David Davis

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John Shulberg