



For Immediate Release

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Wednesday, September 5, 2007

***ENZI, SENATE LEADERS CALL FOR RESTORED AUTHORITY TO  
INVESTIGATE RAILROAD MEDICARE FRAUD***

**Washington D.C.** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today sent the following letter to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), urging the Conference Committee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies to adopt key provisions of the Senate-passed Appropriations bill. These provisions would restore the authority of the Railroad Retirement Board Office of Inspector General to conduct Railroad Medicare audits and investigations as part of the Conference Report for Fiscal 2008 Labor and HHS appropriations.

Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Chairman of the HELP Committee, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, joined Senator Enzi in signing the letter.

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

September 5, 2007

Senator Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 205010

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Specter:

Thank you for including language in the FY2008 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies appropriations law to restore the authority of the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Office of Inspector General to conduct Railroad Medicare audits and investigations.

We are writing to request that you advocate on behalf of this language in conference, particularly in light of the fact that there is no analogous language in the House bill.

From FY1989 – FY1996, the RRB OIG's investigations of Railroad Medicare fraud resulted in 68 criminal convictions and civil judgments returning \$320 million to the Medicare trust funds. In FY1997 RRB OIG was prohibited from investigating Medicare fraud. Since that time, other federal resources formerly dedicated to white collar crime investigations have been redirected towards preventing and detecting terrorism. The number of Railroad Medicare fraud claims being investigated by law enforcement has shrunk 83 percent. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the committees with jurisdiction over the RRB and Medicare, respectively, we believe it is imperative that the

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RRB OIG be permitted to resume its investigations of waste, fraud and abuse in one of the largest federal programs.

Sincerely,



Edward Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions



Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance



Michael B. Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Educations  
Labor and Pensions



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance

MBE: krw