

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

With three months until the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is fully implemented, much is still unknown about the true costs of the Medicaid expansion provisions on state and federal taxpayers. During a recent webinar, Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) analysts presented, "*Preparing for Medicaid Expansion: Ensuring Health Care Access for Individuals with Criminal Justice Involvement.*"<sup>1</sup> According to the CHCS presentation, approximately 6-7 million jail inmates could qualify for Medicaid based on income. Based on the same data and research, "3-4 million" jail inmates could enroll in the Medicaid program – representing 30 percent of the 2014 Medicaid expansion.<sup>2</sup>

We believe the data reinforce our concerns that PPACA diverted the Medicaid program from its original intent to serve the nation's most vulnerable populations, including children, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities and low-income seniors. The Medicaid program is already struggling to meet the health care needs of our poorest and sickest Americans. We must better understand the true costs of expanding the program to any new population and weigh such costs with the competing interests of our nation's most vulnerable law-abiding citizens.

As federal taxpayers are mostly responsible for the costs of newly-eligible, non-elderly adults beginning on January 1, 2014, we kindly request a review of projected federal Medicaid costs associated with jail inmates due to the PPACA expansion. Specifically, we request a comprehensive analysis of: (1) federal Medicaid costs and enrollment data for inmates and/or

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. "Preparing for Medicaid Expansion: Ensuring Health Care Access for Individuals with Criminal Justice Involvement." September 16, 2013. Available online at [http://www.chcs.org/usr\\_doc/COCHS\\_Webinar\\_20130916Final.pdf](http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/COCHS_Webinar_20130916Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Impact data was originally presented during a June 18, 2013 webinar by Dr. Marsha Regenstein of George Washington University as noted on slide 15.

Letter to the Honorable Gene L. Dodaro

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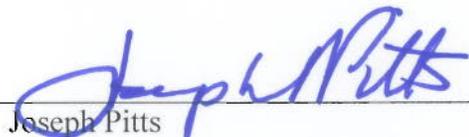
detainees (for costs associated with allowable inpatient treatment) and (2) federal Medicaid costs and enrollment data for inmates who have been released into the community and are newly-eligible for Medicaid due to the PPACA expansion.

Please contact Monica Popp with the House Energy and Commerce Committee at (202) 225-2927 should you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Energy and Commerce Committee



Joseph Pitts  
Chairman, Health Subcommittee  
House Energy and Commerce Committee

cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health