

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Hearing on “Medicaid Program Integrity: Screening Out Errors, Fraud, and Abuse”
June 2, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

It was 12 years ago that the Government Accountability Office first sounded the alarm that the Medicaid program was a high risk for fraud and abuse. The Office of Management and Budget has designated it as one of the federal government’s “high-error” programs with \$17.5 billion in improper payments—third on the OMB’s list. For decades, Members of both sides of the aisle have asked both Republican and Democratic administrations a very basic question: how are you going to stop the waste of billions of taxpayer dollars? Nevertheless, Medicaid continues to waste billions of taxpayer dollars, jeopardizing the care of the most vulnerable.

Put simply: this is unacceptable. Medicaid is supposed to provide our most vulnerable with vital medical services, but continued waste and fraud undermines this important goal.

For the past several years, tools have been developed, initiatives started, and regulations authored with the goal of reducing Medicaid fraud. And still, fraud in Medicaid continues to grow, not shrink. We owe it to folks in Michigan to do a better job and reverse that trend.

I appreciate the work and testimony of our witnesses. I realize that with over \$310 billion spent, some element of bad actors may be unavoidable as they normally follow the money. But we must do better to protect the integrity of this vital program and the care for our most vulnerable. The testimony today provides valuable insight as we continue to work toward a fraud-free Medicaid system.

###