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ON AGING

January 18, 2001

Mr. Philip Castora
P.O. Box 187
Biddeford, ME 04005

Dear Mr. Castora:

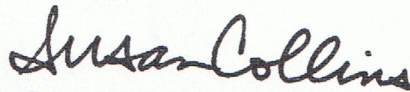
Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about Medicare fraud. I appreciate hearing your views.

I share your concerns about Medicare fraud. As Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have been conducting an ongoing investigation into Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse. The most effective way to stop this attack on Medicare is to prevent the fraud in the first place. My investigation has the twin goals of protecting the taxpayer from unscrupulous individuals who steal billions from Medicare and of protecting elderly and disabled Americans who rely on this important program for their health care needs. We have a solemn obligation to these Americans and to all our nation's taxpayers to protect Medicare.

In the 106th Congress, I introduced legislation aimed at rooting out Medicare fraud and abuse. The legislation would strengthen the safeguards built into the Medicare enrollment process, expand certain standards for Medicare provider participation, and find ways to reduce the number of erroneous payments. In addition, the legislation would give additional enforcement tools to the federal law enforcement agencies whose job it is to pursue health care criminals.

Again, thank you for contacting me, and you may be assured of my commitment to eradicating Medicare fraud and abuse.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

SMC:lep