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May 10, 2010

Mr. Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Levinson:

As you may know, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller recently wrote to Secretary Sebelius regarding a forthcoming Government Accountability Office report documenting incidents of fraud and abuse by various Head Start grantees. I join Chairman Miller in expressing serious concerns that the integrity of the Head Start program's eligibility and enrollment process has been compromised.

I join Chairman Miller in asking Secretary Sebelius to initiate an immediate investigation into the specific cases of Head Start fraud uncovered by the GAO. A review of the grantees known to have engaged in fraudulent behavior is an important first step, but I believe the documented severity and frequency of abuse warrants a broader investigation. To determine the pervasiveness of this problem among the 1,600 individual Head Start grantees across the nation, I request a comprehensive investigation by your office of the Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility, enrollment, and attendance verification processes to assess the vulnerability of Head Start programs to the type of fraud and abuse exposed by the GAO's limited investigation.

I look forward to reviewing the results of your investigation, including any recommendations you can provide to assure the American people fraudulent spending within Department of Health and Human Services programs is exposed and eliminated. Please contact [REDACTED] on my staff at [REDACTED] if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

John Kline
Senior Republican Member

Cc: The Honorable George Miller, Chairman



MAY 14 2010

The Honorable John Kline
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and Labor
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kline:

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 10, 2010, in which you described a forthcoming Government Accountability Office report documenting incidents of fraud and abuse by Head Start grantees. You also expressed concerns about the integrity of the Head Start program's eligibility and enrollment process.

In response to your request, our Office of Evaluation and Inspections will conduct a review assessing the Head Start program's vulnerability to fraud and abuse related to issues such as eligibility, enrollment, and attendance verification. We will contact your staff to discuss the scope of this work and ensure that the review will address your concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may call [REDACTED]. An identical letter is being sent to the Honorable George Miller.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Levinson

Daniel R. Levinson,
Inspector General

cc:

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor