



Coalition urges Congress to fight fraud instead of cutting benefits, pay

Inside Health Policy

By: John Wilkerson

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Fight Fraud First sent letters Dec. 10 to lawmakers urging them to find fraud-fighting policy solutions to Medicare and Medicaid before cutting provider pay and entitlements. The group, which is headed by former congressional heavyweights House Republican Billy Tauzin and Democratic Sen. John Breaux, has added organizations representing seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans and minorities to advocate eliminating waste, fraud and abuse as Congress considers ways to pay for delaying the sequestration and avoiding tax increases.

Up to 10 percent of Medicare dollars lost to fraud, waste and abuse, the letters to House and Senate leaders state.

The Fight Fraud First Coalition also launched an online petition, which will be delivered to Congress and is available online at www.americansagainstfraud.org.

Tauzin also lobbies for home health agencies that have been countering hospitals' call for fiscal cliff negotiators to rein in health care costs by charging coinsurance for post-acute care. Tauzin has circulated a new analysis showing seniors already have a financial stake in the care they receive at home.