United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2015

Mr. Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
441 G. Street NW - Room 7100
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to respectfully request that GAO undertake a review of Medicaid spending and federal and state oversight of care provided to Medicaid enrollees in Assisted Living facilities. We understand that many states cover Assisted Living services including through Medicaid home and community-based services waivers. States may also cover services provided to individuals in Assisted Living settings through their state plans or through Medicaid comprehensive demonstration waivers. The federal government oversees and monitors certain aspects of care provided to individuals in nursing facilities through the Medicaid and Medicare program, but care provided to individuals in these settings has historically been mainly overseen by states.

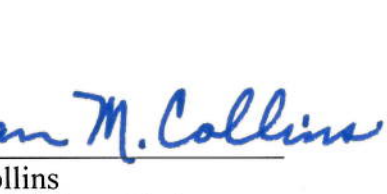
Given the growth in federal Medicaid spending for long-term care services and expected program growth caused by the aging and expansion of the population and program, information to understand federal and state spending and oversight of care provided in these settings is needed. As such, we are seeking to understand how states have structured their Medicaid programs to cover Assisted Living services, including how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services oversees state programs and care provided to individuals in these settings. In particular, we request that GAO assess the following questions:

1. What is known about the number of Medicaid enrollees in Assisted Living facilities and the amount of Medicaid spending for related care?
2. What is known about state Medicaid coverage for Assisted Living, payment levels, and eligibility requirements?
3. How do the federal government and states, particularly state Medicaid programs, oversee the care provided to individuals in Assisted Living facilities, and how, if at all, does this differ from oversight of care provided to Medicaid-covered individuals in nursing facilities?

Please feel free to contact Brian Cohen with Sen. Warren, Kim Brandt with Sen. Hatch, Caitlin Warner with Sen. McCaskill, or Priscilla Hanley with Sen. Collins with any questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



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