

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
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July 28, 2015

Ms. Carolyn Yocom
Director
Health Care
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Ms. Yocom:

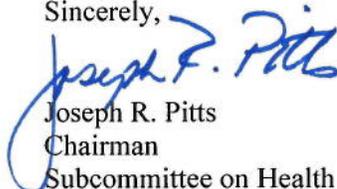
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on July 8, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Medicaid at 50: Strengthening and Sustaining the Program."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on August 11, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Graham Pittman, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to graham.pittman@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

cc: The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Representative Pitts

1. Medicaid was created to provide assistance to individuals whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the costs of necessary medical services. However, GAO has identified a number of loopholes in Medicaid financial eligibility policies that allow individuals to artificially impoverish themselves in order to qualify for Medicaid coverage of long-term care. HR 1771 is intended to address one of the loopholes GAO identified that involves the use of annuities. Can you describe the loophole GAO identified and how much money individuals are sheltering as a result of this loophole? Also, do you think that this bill would help address the problem GAO identified?

The Honorable Representative Bilirakis

1. GAO's April 2015 report on Medicaid demonstration programs included several recommendations to CMS. Can you please provide us an update on the status of these recommendations, including any actions taken by CMS and whether those actions fully address the concerns raised by your report?