

January 11, 2001
FAX NO. (202)224-2693
Senator Susan Collins
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

This is just a follow-up to add to the information sent to you last evening regarding Maine's investigation into Medicare/Medicaid fraud.

In today's edition of the Portland Press Herald "DOCTORS OPPOSE STATE SEARCH FOR MEDICAID FRAUD", this article states objections on the hiring of an independent consulting firm. The MMA (Maine Medical Association) maintains that the work should be done by the Department of Human Services rather than by outsiders. Steven Michaud, president of the Maine Hospital Association, also expressed concerns of an outside firm and asked that DHS be vigilant in overseeing the consulting firm's actions.

What makes this rather suspicious is that Eugene Gessow, director of the DHS Bureau of Medical Services, said the MMA doesn't understand that he will be in control of the whole process. Mr. Gessow works out of the SAME Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, which I wrote to you about last evening and this is the department, under Division of Licensing & Certification, which sent me the letter stating their investigation "revealed that the facility (nursing home)" had no medical records related to my mother's stay at their facility. A fair investigation cannot be had into Medicare/Medicaid fraud by having the DHS Bureau of Medical Services in control. In essence, they will have to investigate themselves. This department's surveyor, who investigated my complaint of abuse and Medicaid fraud, saw my documented evidence of my mother's stay at a local nursing home and a local hospital and prescriptions drugs that were not needed.

I want closure to this matter and the other issues involving State and Federal violations that have harmed me. I request your assistance in bringing my case before a Grand Jury or get the Justice Department to investigate my documented evidence and indict where evidence demands. I would appreciate a call from you. I may be contacted at (207)283-3130.

Thank you.

Dorothy Lafortune