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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 Allison Dembeck or Kirk Boyle on my staff at (202) 225-4527 if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kline".

John Kline
Senior Republican Member

Cc: The Honorable George Miller, Chairman