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August 8, 2011

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 3134
Washington, DC 20220

Mr. Richard Foster
Chief Actuary
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 314
G Humphrey Building
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Geithner and Mr. Foster:

On May 19, 2011, 36 of my colleagues joined me in sending each of you a letter regarding the fiscal condition of the Medicare program. Following the release of the 2011 Medicare Trustees Report, Secretary Geithner made statements which appeared to conflict with previous statements by Mr. Foster, clearly warranting an explanation. Our letter requested an explanation from both of you regarding your apparent contradictory statements about the effect of the health care law on the Medicare program.

We requested a reply within 14 days, yet 81 days later, we still have not received a response to our straightforward request.

As a former member of the President's Cabinet, I can assure you that a letter from 37 Senators with a specified deadline would have been prioritized for response. The time period that has lapsed is unacceptable.

At a time when our nation is experiencing record-breaking budgetary shortfalls, it is essential that spending for one of the largest shares of our federal government is based on actuarially sound numbers, not conflicting statements from two of the Administration's top advisors. I want to reiterate the requests from our prior letter, and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

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