



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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For Immediate Release

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Grassley Announces Hearing on Medicare and Managed Care

Hearing: "Medicare and Managed Care: Finding Successful Solutions"
Date/time: Tuesday, April 3, 2001, at 10 a.m.
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Description: Congress introduced managed care as a Medicare option in the 1970s. In 1997, Congress created the Medicare+Choice program to control costs and increase health care options for older Americans. The program was designed to provide an alternative to traditional Medicare that would offer desirable benefits that traditional Medicare doesn't cover, such as hearing aids, prescription drugs and lower premiums. Many older Americans who are enrolled in Medicare+Choice enjoy having more than one health care option and are pleased with the additional services they receive. However, managed care's participation in Medicare is limited and is generally concentrated in urban, high-population areas; beneficiaries in rural areas have fewer, if any, managed care options available to them. Congress has worked to improve older Americans' access to managed care, but more challenges remain. Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, will convene a hearing to discuss the state of Medicare+Choice and ways to improve the program by taking a closer look at the program's design, payment structure and regulatory requirements.

Witness List

Dr. Madeline T. Smith, Specialist in Social Legislation, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Murray N. Ross, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Washington, D.C.

Victor E. Turvey, Regional CEO, United Healthcare of the Midwest, Maryland Heights, Mo.

Kevin W. McCarthy, Health and Welfare Benefits Consultant, Towers Perrin, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Dr. Thomas C. Buchmueller, Associate Professor, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, Calif.

Dr. Len M. Nichols, Principal Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.

