

NEWS RELEASE

From: Taxpayers Against Fraud

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Taxpayers Against Fraud Blasts Senate Medicaid Bill

The Chairman of Taxpayers Against Fraud, Neil Getnick, called the Medicaid fraud bill passed by the Senate today an utter sham, and predicted it would do little to relieve county governments and real property taxpayers staggering under mounting Medicaid bills.

"The Senate bill has absolutely no False Claims Act provisions whatsoever," said Getnick. "There is nothing permitting government lawyers to sue cheats for treble damages, nothing to encourage whistleblowers to come forward and report fraud, indeed not even job protection for a whistleblower who comes forward and is fired for doing the right thing," Getnick said.

Jim Moorman, the President of Taxpayers Against Fraud, noted that the Senate action comes just days after the federal government released a scathing report that blasted New York State for its grossly inadequate effort to crack down on Medicaid fraud. "Ironically, on the heels of a federal report decrying New York's failure to police its Medicaid program, the Senate is passing a toothless bill that lacks all of the essential elements of the Federal False Claims Act, a law championed by federal fraud fighters like Senator Charles Grassley," Moorman said. Grassley, a Republican fiscal conservative, Chairs the US Senate Finance Committee.

Taxpayers Against Fraud is a Washington, DC based nonprofit, public interest organization dedicated to combating fraud against the government through the use of False Claims Acts. Getnick is a former fraud prosecutor whose New York City law practice specializes in Medicare and Medicaid fraud recoveries. Major whistleblower cases brought by his firm, Getnick & Getnick, have resulted in recoveries of nearly \$400 million for the government, including the largest such fraud recovery in the Southern District of New York. Jim Moorman is a former senior Department of Justice official.