

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN

CONRAD R. BURNS, MONTANA
PAUL COVERDELL, GEORGIA
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE
MICHAEL ENZI, WYOMING
PETER G. FITZGERALD, ILLINOIS
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
SPENCER ABRAHAM, MICHIGAN

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
PAUL D. WELLSTONE, MINNESOTA
MAX CLELAND, GEORGIA
MARY LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
JOHN EDWARDS, NORTH CAROLINA

EMILIA DISANTO, STAFF DIRECTOR
PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

January 18, 2000

VIA FACSIMILE: (816) 426-3851

Joe Tilghman
Regional Administrator
Health Care Financing Administration
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO

Dear Mr. Tilghman:

As agreed, during our meeting in Kansas City before the holiday season, we expect to receive monthly reports on the status of Missouri nursing homes. Please include the following information in all future reports:

- 1) the total number of surveys, including standard, extended and complaint surveys, conducted for each month;
- 2) the number and percentage of deficiency-free nursing homes each month, compared to the region and the nation, identified after standard, extended and complaint surveys;
- 3) the number and percentage of homes with G and above level deficiencies each month, compared to the region and the nation, identified after standard, extended and complaint surveys;
- 4) the percentage of surveys each month initiated on a Saturday, Sunday, or evening (after 7 p.m.) compared to the region and the nation, for standard surveys;
- 5) the number of complaints received by the state of Missouri each month and percentage categorized as immediate jeopardy (investigation must be initiated within the state's requirement of 24 hours) and the percentage categorized as actual harm (investigation must be initiated within 10 days) and the percentage of each of these two categories where the investigation was initiated within these time frames;
- 6) the aggregate data on the number of Missouri nursing homes referred to Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Kansas City regional office for sanction, including the number and types of sanction imposed;
- 7) a report on how the state of Missouri is implementing HCFA's nursing home initiatives and detailing the progress made on each individual initiative; and

Mr. Joe Tilghman
Page 2

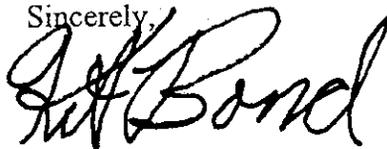
8) the monthly report prepared by the Kansas City regional office, detailing survey process errors, omissions and significant findings resulting from Federal Monitoring Surveys.

We would appreciate receiving this information for the past two months, November and December 1999. Beginning in February 2000, we expect to receive regular reports delivered to my office by the third Wednesday of each month.

Additionally, and following upon our earlier meeting, please advise me regarding the status of your review of HCFA's contractual agreement with the state of Missouri. We would appreciate a report of your findings as soon as they become available.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Donovan at (202) 224-5175. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman

cc: Nancy-Ann Min DeParle
Administrator
(202) 690-6262

Don Johnson
Deputy Director
Office of Legislation
(202) 690-8168

Thomas W. Lenz
Associate Regional Administrator
Fax: (816) 426-3851