



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

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Federal Task Force Improves Services to Fight Medicare and Insurance Fraud

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, June 21, 2009 -A new federal task force is part of a stepped-up effort to target the billions of dollars stolen by Medicare and Medicaid fraud annually. Some \$311 million in new money will be added to combat fraud in FY 2010. That's a 50-percent increase over this year, with the stated goal of saving \$2.7 billion over five years.

New anti-fraud technology will be deployed. Special strike forces also will be expanded in cities such as Detroit and Houston, and the number of agents and prosecutors on strike forces in cities around the U.S. is increasing 10-fold. This is the federal government's largest push to date against rampant Medicare and Medicaid schemes.

In a related federal effort, a Senate Judiciary subcommittee recently held a hearing on whether criminal prosecution deters health care fraud. The subcommittee concluded that a coordinating group should be created to focus on health care fraud to include all relevant federal agencies with state regulators and law enforcement. Anti-fraud insurance organizations have called for greater inter-agency and inter-government coordination with private insurers to target health-care fraud.

This news release is issued as a service of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT). FACT was formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984, and currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site (www.usafact.org). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#), [scholarships](#) and [consumer information](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.