



# Attorney General Doug Peterson

# News Release

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## **Attorneys General Call for Federal Policy Change to Expand Their Medicaid Fraud Authority to Address More Resident Abuse Cases**

Today, the Nebraska Attorney General joined 37 other Attorneys General urging the U.S. government to change its policy so that state attorneys general could use federal funds to investigate and prosecute a wider range of Medicaid abuse and neglect cases, including those that happen at home.

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides free or low-cost medical benefits to millions of Americans. More than 6.4 million people enrolled in the Medicaid program are age 65 or older. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 10 persons age 65 and older *who live at home* will become a victim of abuse.

Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCUs) investigate and prosecute state Medicaid provider fraud and resident abuse complaints in Medicaid-funded health care facilities. They have the option to review abuse and neglect complaints of those residing in board and care facilities. In most states, MFCUs operate in the state attorney general's office.

The joint letter was signed by Nebraska as well as attorneys general in 36 states and the District of Columbia, and was sent to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

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