



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors  
Re: Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations  
Da: Monday, Aug. 15, 2005

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services asking a series of questions about Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations after The Washington Post reported problems with the groups. Grassley made the following comment as well.

"The Post's reporting raises a lot of troubling questions. Secrecy and tax dollars don't mix. Bad things can happen in the absence of public scrutiny. The taxpayers deserve to know what they're getting for the \$300 million a year that they contribute to these groups. And David Shipp deserved to know what happened to his wife without having to sue. I intend to find out whether Quality Improvement Organizations make a difference in quality of care, and whether they're accountable enough to patients and the taxpayers."